

Student veterans learn to integrate



U.S. NAVY

A soldier stands on the U.S.S. Bataan as a military hovercraft approaches. Freshman Jon Cox returned in May from three years of service in the U.S. Navy. This week's feature discusses his transition from military officer into Clemson University freshman. Cox and his academic advisor, Ken Weaver, a Vietnam War veteran, hope to create a support system for all student veterans through a student-run veteran organization. SEE PAGE A4

Barker warns of new cuts

The University must continue achievements, not stay complacent.

JULIE LEDBETTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

University President Jim Barker spoke out against Governor Sanford's budget cuts to higher education and his proposed tuition cap at the annual State of Clemson Address last Thursday.

Despite all the achievements the University has had this year, Barker said Clemson still has a long way to go and needs to be aware of potential problems, particularly the budget cuts.

"We must be alert to the things that will slow down our momentum and, in fact, can cause our momentum to come to a screeching halt," Barker said.

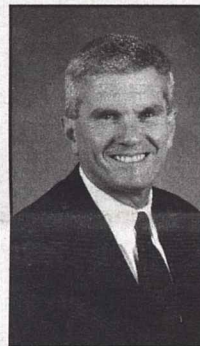
The governor's executive budget is the most immediate threat to the success of the University, according to Barker. The executive budget cuts include a \$4 million cut to Clemson public service activities, 3.5 percent cut to the maintenance and facility budget and a 1 percent cut to the education and general budget.

In addition, the budget cuts mean no pay raises to faculty and staff and \$10 million reduction in funding endowed chairs, said Barker.

Governor Sanford is also proposing a tuition cap.

"Capping tuition is a much-needed short term way to force more collaboration in the higher educational system, but we believe restructuring higher educational governance is the long-term solution," Gov. Sanford said in a press release.

"We can't price our kids out of the market for higher education if we're going to compete in the knowledge-based economy, and recent tuition increases are largely a result of duplication and inefficiency within the



JAMES BARKER

Conservative journal plans drawing

Tiger Town Observer plans to sponsor fundraiser drawing for semi-automatic rifle to celebrate the Second Amendment.

THOMAS LYNN
STAFF WRITER

A conservative college journal at Clemson is sponsoring a drawing for an AK-47 rifle early next month as a fundraiser and as a way to celebrate the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The Tiger Town Observer is sponsoring a drawing for the assault-style weapon on March 2. The group will take names and donations for the drawing beginning Feb. 27.

Andrew Davis, editor of the Observer, said the group got the idea from a conservative publication at the University of Illinois in Urbana. Davis said the first drawing in Illinois was so successful that the Urbana paper is now holding monthly drawings for a variety of weapons.

Davis said the Observer staff chose the AK-47 because it is a renowned weapon that was once illegal. "Given that the AK-47 is such a high-profile gun, we're expecting to expand to all demographics — not just the hunters and gun fanatics that we have right now," Davis said.

The fundraiser is open to anyone who is at least 18 years old and is eligible to own a firearm in the state of South Carolina. The Observer is asking for a donation of \$5 per entry. An AK-47 typically sells for more than \$300.

Most of the proceeds will help the Observer pay for its printing costs and other expenses. Davis said the Observer would donate 20 percent of the money raised to the Iran Freedom Foundation, a group promoting democracy in that country.

To purchase a gun in the state of South Carolina, you must be at least 18 years old, with no prior criminal record and must pass a

SLED background test. In Illinois, you must be at least 21 years old and have a license to purchase or possess a weapon.

"In South Carolina, our gun laws are a lot more flexible, so we plan to have a lot more people eligible for our drawing," Davis said.

The winner of the drawing will receive a gift certificate for the AK-47, a box of standard ammunition, safety instruction, a trip to the gun range and a book, "The Bias Against Guns," by John Lott.

Davis said that the administration has not had a problem with this fundraiser. "We don't necessarily have the written support of the University, but overall there hasn't been any hesitation to allow this," said Davis.

Clemson student Matthew Porter is opposed to the idea. He is concerned that a gun of this caliber could fall into the wrong hands. "What 18-year-old deserves an AK-47?" Porter said.

Davis hopes the fundraiser will go smoothly, unlike the event that preceded it.

"At the University of Illinois, there were over 100 protesters at their event," Davis said. "But that's a very liberal state and a very liberal campus, so it's really hard to tell."

Davis said it is difficult to gauge the campus's reaction. "It's hard to tell with Clemson. It seems that nobody really cares about anything," said Davis.

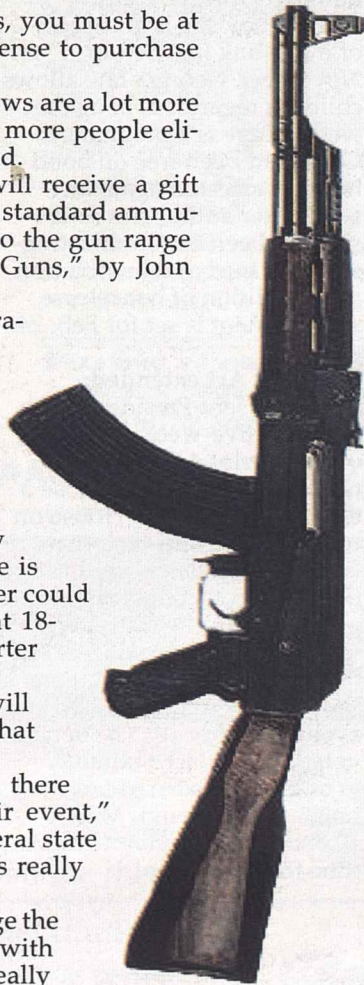


PHOTO COURTESY OF AK47.NET

HIGHLIGHTS

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SPORTS

Clemson got a shot in the arm on V-Day with a win over Maryland, B1.

OPINIONS

Danish newspaper should have showed more restraint in publishing cartoons, C1.

TIMEOUT

Get a Closeau! Steve Martin stars in the remake of "The Pink Panther," D12



WEEKEND FORECAST

FRIDAY: PM Showers



SATURDAY: Showers 47/40

SUNDAY: Few Showers 46/32

Weekly World Update

World Report

■ **U.N. cites torturing at Guantanamo Bay:** A U.N. investigation has discovered that the United States committed acts of torture at Guantanamo Bay, including force-feeding detainees and subjecting them to prolonged solitary confinement, according to a draft report. U.S. officials rejected the draft report, saying the experts who wrote it made many errors and treated statements from detainees' lawyers as fact. The report obtained Monday recommended the United States close Guantanamo Bay and revoke all special interrogation techniques authorized by the Defense Department. Its experts accused the United States of violating the detainees' rights to a fair trial, freedom of religion and health. Many of the allegations have been made before, but the document is the first account from an inquiry launched by the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

■ **Sadaam goes on hunger strike:** Saddam Hussein told the court during the latest session of his trial Tuesday that he was on hunger strike to protest tough stances by the chief judge. In Monday's session, Abdel-Rahman ordered the eight defendants to attend the court despite a boycott by their original defense team. When Abdel-Rahman banged his gavel and rebuked him for not standing when he addressed the court, Saddam said, "Hit your own head with that gavel." One of the co-defendants, Awad Hamed al-Bandar, also said he was not eating. Saddam did not mention a hunger strike in Monday's session. For the second straight day, the former head of Saddam's intelligence service wore a long-sleeved undershirt and long underwear to show his rejection of the court. When Abdel-Rahman told him to "Shut up," Ibrahim replied, "Don't tell me to shut up. I am a person like you — even better than you."

■ **Australians sentenced to death:** On Tuesday an Indonesian court sentenced two Australian men to die by firing squad for attempting to smuggle heroin from Bali. The sentences matched what prosecutors had demanded for Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, the accused organizers of a group of nine Australians arrested on Bali last April for trying to smuggle more than 18 pounds of heroin to Australia. Activists from an Indonesian anti-narcotics group inside the courtroom shouted "Hooray! Long live the judges!" when the verdicts were read. The court also sentenced two drug couriers to life in jail. Chan, 22, shook his head, stared at the ceiling and smirked when the verdict was delivered.

National Report

■ **Cheney violated game law:** Vice President Dick Cheney was in violation of the game laws of Texas because he did not have a required stamp when he accidentally shot and wounded his hunting companion. Cheney wounded fellow hunter Harry Whittington in the face, neck and chest Saturday, apparently because he did not see Whittington approach as he fired toward a covey of quail on a southern Texas ranch. Hunting safety experts interviewed Monday agreed it would have been a good idea for Whittington to have announced himself as he approached Cheney, which he apparently did not do, according to a witness. Under the rules of hunting, however, they stressed that the shooter is responsible for knowing his surroundings and avoiding hitting others. In Texas, Whittington, 78, remained in Christus Spohn Hospital Corpus Christi-Memorial Monday morning.

■ **Woman who married teenager gives birth:** A woman accused of molesting a 15-year-old boy she later married gave birth to the couple's child over the weekend, the woman's lawyer said Monday. Lisa Clark, 37, gave birth to a 7-pound, 9-ounce boy Saturday, Daniel Sammons said. The baby could be put in state custody unless Clark can arrange the necessary paperwork for a friend to take temporary custody. Clark was discharged from the hospital and returned to jail, where she is being held without bond. Clark's teenage husband turned up in Ohio earlier this month after disappearing from a juvenile home in Georgia. Clark and the boy she is accused of molesting married in November. Georgia law allows children regardless of age to wed if there is a pregnancy. Clark had been free on bond but was arrested again last week after authorities said she had been communicating with her husband in violation of a condition of her release. Arraignment is set for Feb. 24.

■ **Patriot Act extended:** Congress sent President Bush a second five-week extension of the Patriot Act as Senate negotiators worked to close a deal with the White House on renewing the anti-terrorism law with some new civil liberties protections. Sixteen provisions of the 2001 law were to have expired Dec. 31, but Congress extended them until Friday in response to an avenue of appeals. The Senate voted 95 to 1 last Thursday to extend the current law unchanged through March 10 and give negotiators more time to reach a deal.

News By Numbers

8

number of hours the longest baseball game lasted.

37

years a woman was in a coma.

97

age of the world's oldest bridesmaid.

30 seconds with...

Michelle
McDonough

One Captain of the Varsity Cheerleading Team

Jenny Mason: Who is your favorite Clemson football player?

Michelle McDonough: James Davis.

JM: How long have you been cheering and tumbling?

MM: Cheering for five; tumbling for 14.

JM: What is the most painful injury you've ever had from tumbling?

MM: I hyper-extended my elbow when I was tumbling in gymnastics.

JM: What is the most untrue stereotype of a cheerleader?

MM: That we're unintelligent.

JM: Would you rather compete on an Olympic gymnastics team or cheer for a professional football team?

MM: Compete in the Olympics.

JM: What is your most embarrassing cheerleader moment?

LA: When I fell on a standing tuck at a basketball game.

Clemson hosts provocative seminar about democracy

Forum promotes discussion on political freedoms.

SEAN MCCAMBRIDGE
STAFF WRITER

On a quiet Thursday evening on campus, Matthew Crosston's class, "Dictating Democracy: Does Forcing Freedom Work?" meets in Hardin Hall.

Both students and members of the greater Clemson community fill the seats of the first-floor auditorium at 7 p.m. for the three-hour seminar. The class studies texts on democratization theory while addressing comments and objections from students on both sides of the aisle, which allows for informal debate.

"Dictating Democracy" makes up the Provost Seminar in Public Policy and Public Affairs and is a continuation of the Provost Seminar from Spring 2005 which covered anti-Americanism. "It was an obvious continuation of last year's Anti-Americanism course," said Crosston. "Students felt our foreign policy was the problem, not our culture. So let's look at that foreign policy philosophy in detail."

The seminar revolves around the question of whether it is feasible to force democracy upon other nations and cultures. "[The class examines] whether it is possible, philosophically and militarily, to impose democracy across the globe, whether this is the most effective strategy for the American state and what consequences are likely to emerge because of it," Crosston said.

"It is, quite simply, a class that studies what we do in the world and asks students to figure out for themselves whether they think we should be doing it," he said. "There are no assumptions or agendas in the course. Students are challenged to find their own way."

David Sherman, a sophomore studying political science, says the course is important. "It deals mostly with one of the

biggest issues in today's politics, which is the war and with foreign policy in general," he said. "It's highly relevant because it gives each student a more in depth approach than what you would ever hear or see on the television news shows."

In a recent class meeting, the seminar focused on theoretical texts discussing democratic peace and liberal democracy. One criticism of democratization is that while democracies generally do not fight one another, democratizing countries go to war often.

Though reading theoretical texts can be somewhat dry, according to Crosston, he encouraged students to plow through the "Academese" and take a critical look at what the authors were presenting. The discussion of the texts engaged the students, who brought up many real-world implications.

"So far we've been reading a lot of scholarly works on theories of democratization," said Laura Wright, a sophomore studying political science. "I think every debate we've had has been on a good topic even if it isn't directly related to democratization. The great thing about this class is that both sides are presented and picked apart. We are not told what to think. Rather, we are given a lot of information

and decide ourselves what we think is true."

The local community participates in class but not as much as in the 2005 Provost Seminar, according to Wright.

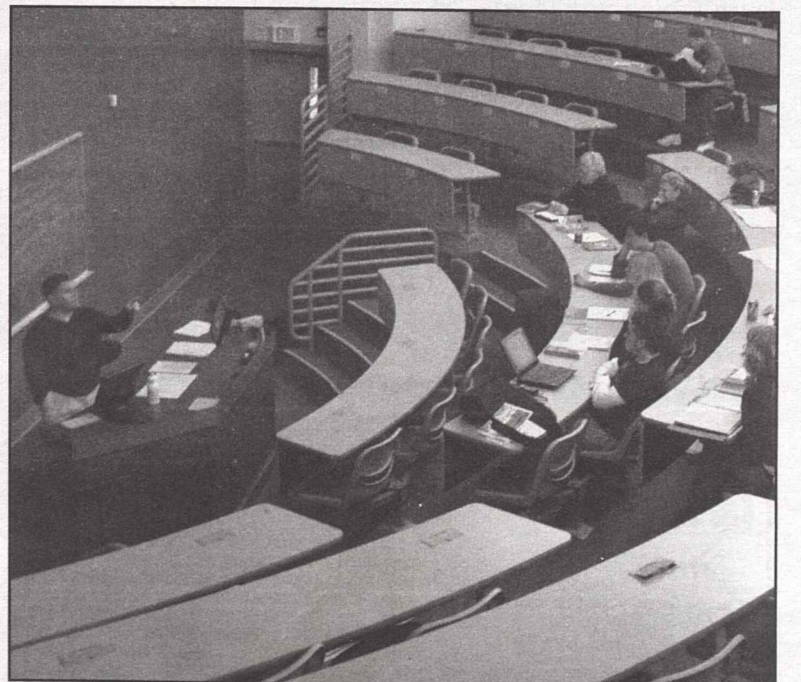
"It's great having members from the community come in because it changes up the class," said Sherman.

Crosston said bringing community members gives Clemson students a way to relate with individuals beyond the edge of campus. "It enriches the debate and discussion because these people clearly have a different set of experiences and values to bring to the table," he said.

Both Sherman and Wright had a good impression of the class.

"I love this kind of class because it doesn't tell you what to think," said Wright. "Rather, you can come in and talk out what you have read. I learn a lot from what other students say because oftentimes they pick up on things I haven't and can really make you think."

"I'm absolutely glad I took the class," said Sherman. "I recommend any who hasn't — political science major or not — to stop by this class and get an idea of what Crosston's lectures are all about and hopefully take one of his classes in the future."



TOM HAMILTON/staff photographer

DICTATING DEMOCRACY: Students discuss foreign policy issues and debate whether forcing democracy is possible.

In the Books

Campus Arrests

The following were arrests made by the Clemson University Police Department between Feb. 9 and Feb. 15.

Feb. 9

10:47 p.m., Kirten McManus, minor in possession, Lightsey Bridge, officer: Cassell

Feb. 10

2:18 a.m., Keaton Green, public disorderly conduct, fake ID, Wannamaker, officer: Salisbury

5:53 a.m., Asher Alexander, public disorderly conduct, R-1, officer: Hughes

Feb. 11

2:05 a.m., Emily Carr, public disorderly conduct, Norris Hall, officer: Salisbury

3:33 a.m., Martin Monteith, public disorderly conduct, Sikes, officer: Salisbury

Crime Report

The following calls were among those that Clemson University police responded to between Feb. 9 and Feb. 15.

Feb. 8

8:36 a.m., damage to vehicle, officer: CUPD

Feb. 9

5:11 p.m., larceny, R-3, officer: Henriksen

10:47 p.m., minor in possession, Lightsey Bridge, officer: Cassell

Feb. 10

11:17 a.m., motor vehicle accident, Ft. Hill Street, CUPD

Feb. 12

4:28 p.m., motor vehicle accident, officer: Marzolf

Feb. 13

11:45 a.m., harassing calls, Calhoun Courts, officer: Cassell

5:17 p.m., damage to vehicle, R-1, officer: Zagorski

Feb. 14

12:27 p.m., suspicious activity, Johnstone, officer: McGill

8:08 a.m., gas spill, R-1, CUPD

Campus heeds HIV/AIDS awareness and responsibility

Forum brings to light recent statistics and ways to promote safe sex.

LATRICE LARY

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Feb. 7 was National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness and Information Day. This event served as a reminder of the disproportionate effect of HIV/AIDS on blacks and provided an opportunity to renew the commitment to work together to end this modern epidemic.

Redfern Health Center held various programs during the week of Feb. 9 through Feb. 14 that focused on sexual responsibility.

"African Americans make up 12.9 percent of U.S. population for the past three years," said Michael Bolling, a graduate student and graduate health educator assistant at Redfern Health Center.

Bolling discussed HIV/AIDS/STD awareness on last Thursday evening during the Lambda Theta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. founder's week activity entitled "When the Loving ain't all Good."

"African Americans have been responsible for more than 51 percent of AIDS cases," Bolling said.

Bolling began the discussion with the history of HIV/AIDS. In 1984, a male Canadian flight attendant became the first known instigator of AIDS,

interacting with various men in the U.S. Physicians in New York and California hospitals began to notice men with flu-like symptoms. Doctors at that time thought the epidemic was a form of cancer.

AIDS is the most advanced stage of HIV infection. It results from the destruction of an infected person's immune system which is the body's defense system. Immune system cells fight off infection and other diseases, so if the immune system does not work properly, a person is at risk for severe and life-threatening infections and cancers. HIV attacks and destroys the disease-fighting cells of the immune system, leaving the body with a weakened defense against infections and cancer.

The first treatment for HIV in the United States emerged in 1992. Azidothymidine (AZT) alone was proven to be ineffective in treating HIV/AIDS. Today, if HIV is detected in its early stages, someone living with the virus can possibly still have a long life.

"People aren't affected by things until they hit home," said Jamez Flether, a junior majoring in nursing.

According to UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Program on HIV and AIDS), in 2005 alone, AIDS claimed between 2.8 and 3.6 million lives of whom more than 570,000 were children.

On Clemson's campus, there is less than 2 percent (approximately 400 people including students, faculty and staff members) of documented HIV/AIDS cases.

Bolling discussed other sexu-

ally-transmitted disease statistics during his presentation. In 2003, blacks were 19 times more likely than whites to contract gonorrhea and six times more likely to contract Chlamydia than whites. And women are three to four more times likely to get AIDS than men.

"I don't understand why the number of African American cases is growing in the United States, but the black population isn't," said Tony Washington, a Clemson alumnus.

Most sexual activity carries some risk of spreading HIV. Making it more difficult for blood or sexual fluid to get into the body will reduce the risk of contracting HIV, so it is best to use a barrier to prevent contact with blood or sexual fluid.

The most common artificial barrier is a condom for men. You can also use a female condom to protect the vagina or rectum during intercourse.

Be aware of your body and your partner's body: cuts, sores or bleeding gums increase the risk of spreading HIV. Rough physical activity also increases the risk; even small injuries give HIV a way to get into the body.

Redfern Health Center does not currently offer support groups for students living with HIV or AIDS mostly because students living with the virus do not want to come out and admit that they have HIV, said Parvin Lewis, a health educator at Redfern. Redfern does, however, offer confidential HIV testing for \$7, and students can receive counseling from Psychological Services if they find they have a need.

ONE with Parking Services

Faculty, staff and students are prohibited from parking in visitor spaces from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. Removing your hangtag will not prevent receiving a parking citation.

27-3002: Visitor Parking Areas

A. Visitor parking areas shall be designated by sign(s) and/or pavement markings. These areas are reserved for bona fide visitors. Motor vehicles bearing a current university decal shall not park in these areas between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

B. Visitors must display a valid guest parking permit to park on campus except when parked:

For a period of time less than three (3) hours in areas specifically designated as visitor parking, unless otherwise indicated by sign or pavement markings.

In areas designated as public parking for a special event

In undesignated spaces

C. Visitors may not park in service vehicle parking areas or in parking areas posted as "Reserved for employees 24 hours."



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www.stuaff.clemson.edu/parking/

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Veterans at Clemson

JENNY MASON
NEWS EDITOR

About thirty years ago, Ken Weaver, academic advisor and student services coordinator for Clemson's department of computer science, returned from military service in Vietnam to pursue a Master's degree in international affairs at Florida State University.

What Weaver returned to was a latent hostility that radiated from some of the students with whom he matriculated. Sometimes, though, the hostility was not so silent. "I was called a baby-killer and another student spit on me," Weaver said, though he wore civilian clothes on campus and rarely talked about his experiences in the war.

Weaver said the hostility emanated from both students and faculty at the University. "There was a sense of distrust — and not much appreciation for the friends I'd lost," he said. "It was enough to make me uncomfortable."

At the time, Weaver said the government tried to keep the military in low profile because of the public's general resentment to the war. When Weaver left Vietnam as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, he was assigned to work at the Pentagon where he was told to wear civilian clothes to keep blatant discrimination to a minimum.

About 100 veteran students call Clemson University home today. Jon Cox is one of those 100 student veterans. Cox, 24, joined the U.S. Navy when he was 19 years old, after one semester at college. He returned from service in May and is now in his freshman year of studying computer science.

Cox learned about Weaver's military background when Weaver was assigned as his academic advisor. The two talked, and Weaver recognized in Cox that there was something missing on the Clemson campus: an outlet for students like Cox who have returned from military service and are facing adjustments into regular campus life.

Cox said he did not face the hostility that Weaver faced as a Vietnam War veteran. In fact, he feels his alienation from fellow students stems from his own struggle to adjust, not from students who are not

accepting of his veteran status.

"Today, even if students don't support the war, they're supportive of the troops," Cox said. "For me, it's a combination of age and military experience that sets me apart from the rest of the students here."

At 24 years old, Cox is older than most of the students in his freshman-level classes. For most undergraduate students, this is the first time in their life for independence. But for Cox, who has already been out of high school for six years, time here at Clemson means something different.

"This isn't completely true for all students, definitely, but I have already been away from home," he said. "To come here it's more about going to school and getting an education; not just meeting a whole bunch of new people."

When he chose Clemson for its reputation for strong academics, Cox did not anticipate facing a hostile reaction. And, he said there hasn't been much of a reaction at all. Though he does not make it a point to bring up his military service, students who find out are either very interested or apathetic about it, he said.

Weaver sees the positive potential in the interaction between civilian and veteran students. "The student who has a veteran in their class, if they take the time, can learn a whole lot from them, get new perspectives on things that may interest them," he said. "The veteran wants to be a part of the student body, but for some of them it's difficult — they have been through things you cannot imagine. But at the same time, when they do open up, there is a huge learning experience to be had."

... and the struggle to integrate

JENNY MASON
NEWS EDITOR

In order to make the acclamation process into Clemson's atmosphere easier for student veterans, Cox and Weaver have put into works their vision for a student-run veteran organization. Their hope is that the organization can provide support to student veterans on Clemson's campus and in the community.

Cox and Weaver hope the organization will appeal to three groups of veterans: those who completed their service and are out of the military; veterans who are still active members of reserve units and veterans who have been in active service, but who qualify to return to school to become commissioned officers.

Weaver said the organization will offer the student veterans the chance to know they are not alone, which was one of the things that he felt he needed the most when he returned to Florida State University as a veteran.

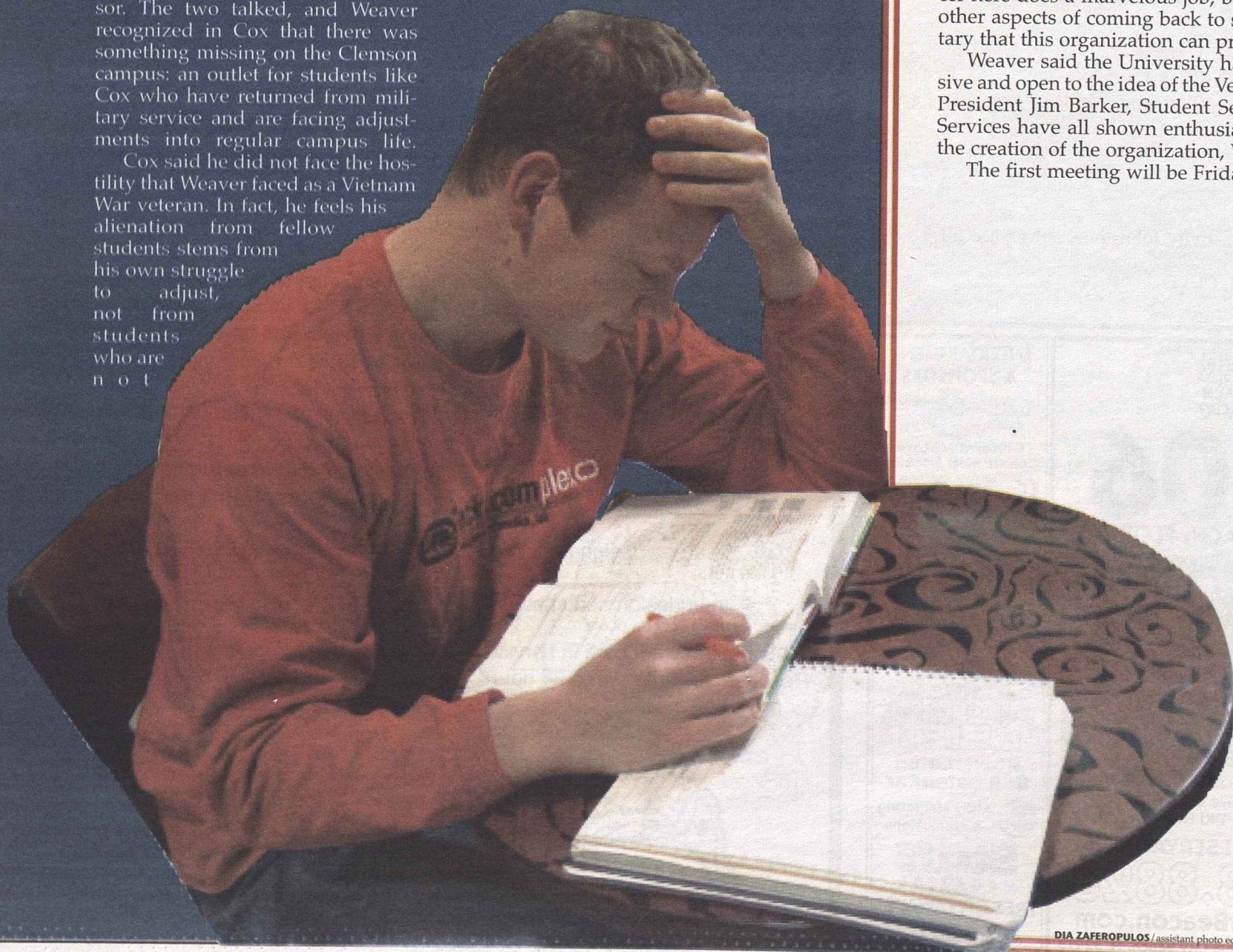
The biggest challenge for a student veteran, according to Weaver, is the acclamation into campus society. "You want to be part of the family, part of the group, but you're different," he said. "The close quarters, close relationships ... the band of brothers — you don't have that anymore. Maybe student veterans can do that for themselves by creating this organization."

For Cox, trying to relate to the other students was the hardest part of integrating into Clemson's family. The basis of the appeal for creating the organization for Cox was, "having a group of students there who have been through the same things or students who are going through the same things I went through."

When he came to campus, Cox said he was slightly surprised that Clemson did not already have an outlet for veterans like this organization promises, especially with Clemson's military heritage. "Most schools have a veteran's office," said Cox. "The veteran's officer here does a marvelous job, but there are so many other aspects of coming back to school from the military that this organization can provide for veterans."

Weaver said the University has been very responsive and open to the idea of the Veteran's organization. President Jim Barker, Student Services and Housing Services have all shown enthusiasm and support for the creation of the organization, Weaver said.

The first meeting will be Friday Feb. 24 at 3 p.m.



DIA ZAFEROPULOS/assistant photo editor

Career Center prepares students for interviews

Certain characteristics can make or break a student's interview.

MAGGIE MUSGRAVE
STAFF WRITER

This past week Clemson University hosted the largest Career-Fair in the University's history. Various companies set up recruiting and information tables, eventually taking over the second floor of Hendrix Center and spilling over onto the first floor. The Michelin Career Center also surrendered all free space to the visiting companies.

This year more companies visited than any year in the past, and they were drawn to Clemson because of the reputation of Clemson alumni and students, said Julie Newman, director of career development, special projects and grants. Newman said the employers commented on the caliber of the Clemson students. According to Newman, they were impressed by students and had many positive interactions.

Newman said there are many different factors that go in to finding a job, and the Career Fair is a good starting point for the job search. Employers use the fair as a pre-screening tool for job recruiting. By meeting and talking with perspective student employees, employers can observe whether the student has the appropriate skills needed to fit in their specific business culture.

Immediately following the Career Fair employers held on-campus interviews. Other companies will return later in the spring to continue the interview process.

Newman said an interview is about an interaction between two people; if the interaction is not comfortable then it is likely that the job will not be comfortable either. Newman said the best tip she can give is to not focus on impressing the interviewer because the interviewer is equally as worried about impressing you.

An interview consists of a combination of listening and

communication skills, said Newman. The key is to adequately answer the questions in the allotted 30 minute interview span. Be prepared and have examples because examples make your answers more personal, said Newman.

To prepare for an interview Newman said, "Research is paramount." Prospective students and employees should research the history of the company or school they are interviewing for.

Newman said not to rely solely on information from the Web site for company research. "You want to wow the employer, so look through trade journals and news articles for information on the company that will make your interview unique," she said.

Many things can be easily overlooked when going into an interview. Eye contact is important; you should maintain eye contact for 70 percent of the interview, said Newman. Newman said to be enthusiastic, lean forward and ask many questions.

"My biggest fear is that they are not going to take me seriously," said Krissy Thompson, senior French and international trade major.

Another concern for students is anticipating the questions the interviewer will ask.

William J. Crosby, a junior marketing major said the one question asked at every interview is to describe your weakness. Crosby said that the goal is to describe your weakness in a positive light, but the question is not meant to be confessional — it is a way to show humility during the interview.

Newman said that students will sometimes hear questions such as, "What would you have written on your tombstone?" Crosby said the strangest question he has ever heard was, "If you had a breakfast restaurant, what kind of food would you serve?" According to Newman, employers ask these types of questions to see how well perspective employees can think on their feet.

To help appease the stress and anticipation of the interview process, the Michelin Career Center is available for advice and training to all Clemson students. The Career Center offers mock-

interview opportunities to plan out what to say in an interview. The entire mock-interview process mirrors an actual interview: Students send in their resumes and then arrange an interview with a career center counselor.

Students like Lindsay Tymon, a senior health science major who said she worries about explaining everything she wants to say in concise manner, could benefit from a mock-interview.

The newest addition to the Career Center is the Interview Stream. The Interview Stream system, which came to the Michelin Center late last semester, is a kiosk set up in one of the center's rooms.

At the Interview Stream kiosk, a student selects the questions they wish to be asked during an interview. The student

then enters the room, is asked the selected questions while being video taped and when finished receives a copy of the recording over e-mail.

Newman said that students are able to observe their mannerisms and reactions to the interview questions and see where improvement is needed. Newman thinks the Interview Stream brings new possibilities for the future of the Career Center, but so far only a handful of students have taken advantage of it.

Along with the Michelin Career Center, there are other outlets to help prepare students for interviews. Newman recommends two popular books that have proven to be successful in helping students master the interview experience.

Ron Fry's "101 Great Answers to the Toughest Interview Questions," gives readers examples of interview questions, explains why the interviewer asks such questions and what type of answers they are looking for.

Richard Nelson Bolles' book "What Color is Your Parachute," is one of the best selling job-hunting books in the world. It is practical and easy to follow, and it has helped many people find their niche, said Newman.

To follow up an interview, Newman recommended writing a Thank You note because it lets the company know you are interested. "Never be afraid to tell them you want the job, employers love to hear this," she said. A Thank You note can make all the difference, she said.

Interview Tips

How to Have a Successful Interview

Before Interview:

- Research the company beyond their Web site
- Prepare examples to back-up your résumé

During Interview:

- Ask questions
- Maintain eye contact

After interview:

- Write Thank-you note

Source: Julie Newman, Director of Career Development
ANN MARLER AND NIKKI BAUMAN/graphics

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Downtown Clemson obtains a unique dining option

Popular hotdog stand offers change from sub sandwich shops.

ERIN FOSTER
STAFF WRITER

No trip downtown is complete without a late-night stop by the Dank Dogs cart. But loyal downtowners may have noticed that the cart has been missing for some time now, leaving many midnight cravings unfulfilled.

Well, fast no more because Dank Dogs has found a new home in the old Uptown on College Avenue. Uptown owners Jay Klugo and T.J. Grove partnered up with the student masterminds behind the Dank Dog cart, Will Roland, Jay McKenna and Steve Clergy. Together these guys updated Uptown to deliver a much needed break from the slew of sub joints that are taking over the downtown dining area.

On your first trip up the stairs, you may not recognize Uptown. An homage to Clemson athletics, Uptown combines the relaxed atmosphere of a sports bar with murals of the Hill and Clemson fans painted on the walls. The décor is still a work in progress, but seven satellite feeds are already running into the big-screen TVs.

The best thing on the menu would have to be The Dang Dog. This "mother of all hotdogs" is loaded with Fritos, chili and shredded or nacho cheese for \$3.50. If you don't quite have the appetite for that, brats, barbeque

and nachos are also on the menu. There hasn't been any skimping on drinks either. "All our drinks are packed in ice so it's literally beer that will freeze your hand off," said Roland.

And if it's saving cash you are worried about, Dank Dogs boasts the best deals in town with low drink prices everyday and buy-one-get-one-free hotdogs late every night. "Everything is on special, all the time," said Grove.

Uptown and Dank Dogs are already attracting patrons. Whether it be old Uptown faithfuls or fresh faces, the new establishment hopes to draw in all types of customers. "The people that we haven't seen are the kids that don't go out to drink but just want to get something to eat," said McKenna. "We'd like to get more people who want to hang out, eat and watch TV."

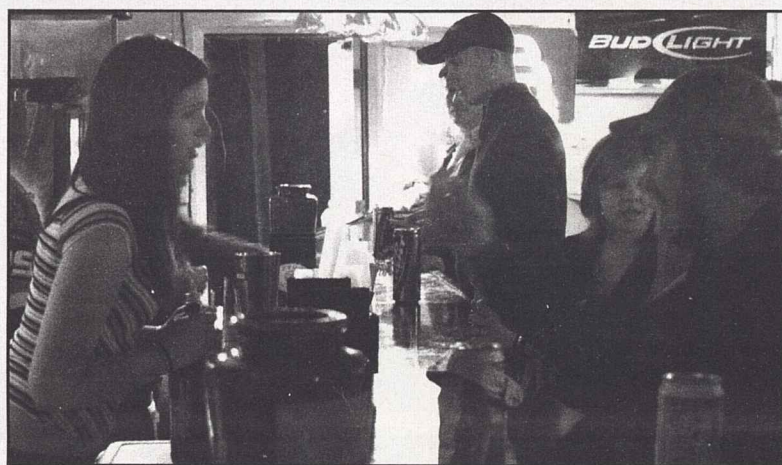
You don't have to be 21 years old to get into Dank Dogs at night. The front area is open to all ages to eat, catch some ESPN SportsCenter and hang out with

friends. The back bar area of Uptown is the only section that is restricted to patrons who are at least 21 years old.

There is no need to leave the bars early in order to score a hot dog. Dank Dogs is open until 2:30 a.m., Monday through Friday and 12:30 a.m. on Saturday to accommodate after-hour cravings. Not into eating that late? No worries. Uptown and Dank Dogs open at 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 5 p.m. on Friday and 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Just don't go to Uptown and expect to find sushi. "We've been asked if we serve sushi 50 or 60 times," said McKenna. All the sushi was moved down the street to 356 after Uptown began renovating.

Do not be fooled by the old Uptown Sushi sign, the new Uptown and Dank Dogs is up and running. So put down the pizza and take the short walk from campus to check out this Clemson original. You're sure to find the "dankest hotdogs around."



BEN SHANNON / photo editor

DANK DOGS: Bartender Nicole Gesme serves clients who can now enjoy hotdogs during more consistent hours.

STATE: Progress over the last year obvious *from page A1*

higher educational system. I believe this group's results will not only illustrate the real benefits of restructuring higher educational governance, but in the near term will come up with some solutions for reining in these spiraling tuition increases."

Barker, however, disagrees with Sanford. "On the surface the cap seems like a good idea. Sanford has said that the cap needs to be implemented because a (South Carolina) in-state student pays higher tuition than an in-state student in North Carolina or Georgia and that's true, but let's tell the whole story," he said.

Over the past 10 years, state appropriations per student has increased by 24 percent in Georgia and 11 percent in North Carolina but have decreased by 26 percent in South Carolina. That makes South Carolina's per student appropriation 72 percent less than that of the southern regional average.

To put that number into perspective, South Carolina appropriates less than \$4,000 per student than North Carolina, \$2,500 less than Georgia and \$3,500 less than Florida.

"If South Carolina provided an adequate base for funding ... we wouldn't need the tuition cap," Barker said.

Along with fighting the tuition cap, Barker cited a number of priorities for the next 12 months including recruiting 140 new faculty members

(and hiring 117), developing a resource and campus facilities plan and enrolling a Top 20 student body.

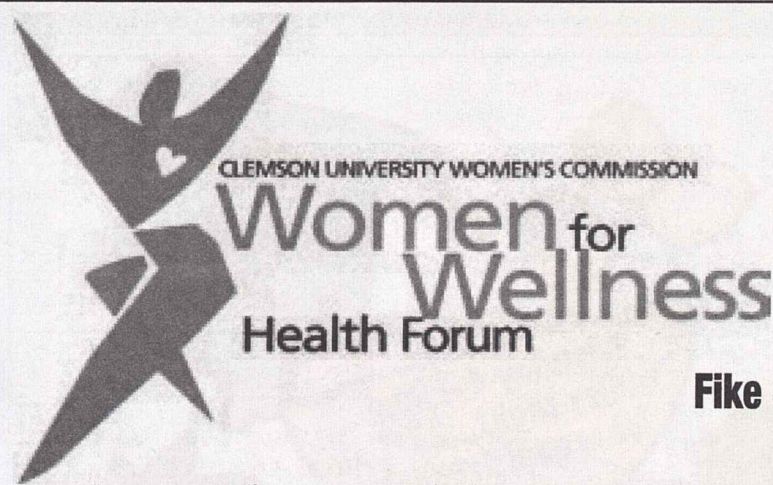
Barker began his address on a positive note by noting all the accomplishments the University has had over the last year. The average freshman SAT score rose 21 points to 1225, and the number of Palmetto Fellows, the top 1,000 students in the state, attending Clemson increased 24 percent.

"We're not just moving forward; we're trying to listen to the things we need to improve on, and we're trying to take action in that regard," said Barker.

However, Barker said, the City of Clemson has contributed to the success of the University.

"This partnership that makes up the word 'college town' is really one of equal parts, and we at the University pledge ourselves to look as much at the second part of that phrase as much as the first part as we look into our future. We're proud to be a part of that," he said.

Clemson Mayor Larry Abernathy also spoke Thursday afternoon on the state of the city. The city of Clemson is doing very well, according to Abernathy. Abernathy said the \$100 million in new development that has come into Clemson this year in the form of new condos, new apartments and a grocery store is indicative of the city's good health.



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9 a.m.-3 p.m.
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Heart & Vascular Disease	10 a.m.	Stress Without Distress
Strokes: Risks, Rehab, Recovery	11 a.m.	Unraveling Perimenopause
Depression: The Common Cold of Mental Illness	1 p.m.	Breast Health-Breast Cancer
Taking Control of Your Finances	2 p.m.	Harnessing Your Mind to Reduce Stress
Relationship Violence & Sexual Assault	3 p.m.	Alzheimers: What It Is ... What To Do

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SPORTS

SECTION

B



JOSH FORT

sports editor

Olympic musings

The Winter Olympics have begun, and since most of my classes are in the morning, I have the privilege of watching the daytime replay of the Olympics. And for those of you who don't know or realize it, the events are actually played during our early morning hours (aired on USA) and replayed during the daytime in America (on NBC and CNBC). Unless you can last through a laptop class without checking the espn.com front page, you'll know before you watch who took the gold. So here are a few random thoughts that I've been mulling over since the games started on Saturday.

First and foremost, what in the heck is wrong with Bode Miller? I mean seriously what is this guy thinking? In case you've missed the last month and a half of Bode's asinine behavior, here's a quick run-down. In an interview with CBS's "60 Minutes" early last month, Miller admitted to racing in the slalom while he was drunk and even compared it to drunk driving.

Yeah, Bode nice comparison except for the fact that drunk driving puts innocent fellow drivers and passengers in danger while drunk skiing just puts you in danger. He also called out Barry Bonds and Lance Armstrong for cheating in their sports in a Rolling Stone interview, yet he refused a drug test after World Cup slalom in December. Earlier this week Miller was disqualified for straddling a gate in the Alpine combined, which cost him his first place finish in the first part of the combination and a chance at gold. Afterwards Miller nonchalantly said that he wasn't upset about missing out on what could have been a gold medal run.

He said that he was glad that he didn't have to travel into Torino to stand on the podium. Yeah Bode I don't

see **GAMES**, page B4

Tigers get back on winning track

After loss at BC, Clemson bounces back for win over Terps.

SARAH PORRI
STAFF WRITER

After dropping a close game to the Boston College Eagles 67-61, the Tigers rallied to an 89-77 victory over the Terps of Maryland. The loss to the Eagles marked the seventh loss in eight games for the Tigers and put them at 14-10 for the season and 3-7 in the ACC.

Key contributors to the win for Boston College were Sean Marshall with 18 points and Jared Dudley. Dudley also scored 13 of his points during the second half of the game with a total of six rebounds. High scorers for the Tigers included Akin Akingbala with 21 points and K.C. Rivers with 13 points and eight rebounds.

The Eagles quickly figured out the Tiger defense and took a 13-2 lead just five minutes into the game. Marshall scored six, and Hinnant put in five during this first half rally. At the half, the Tigers trailed the Eagles 32-26.

With just more than eight minutes left in the game,



REX BROWN/contributing photographer

STRAWBERRY JAMMED: Clemson's Akin Akingbala stuffs a shot attempt by Maryland's D.J. Strawberry.

Clemson tried to make a comeback while lagging by 14, scoring 10 points with Vernon Hamilton taking the Tigers to just a four point difference. The game was tied at 59 with a little more than a minute and a half to play in the game. The Eagles regained the lead by six with foul shots made by Dudley. The Eagles capped their win with Smith making both free throws with 12 seconds left in the game.

The Tigers next match up was a Valentine's Day date with the Terps. The Tigers broke their five game losing streak by beating the Terps on their home court of Littlejohn Coliseum.

Vernon Hamilton, the Tigers leading scorer, was out for the game due to an injury to his elbow and thumb during the final seconds of the Boston College game. It was up to Shawan Robinson to take over

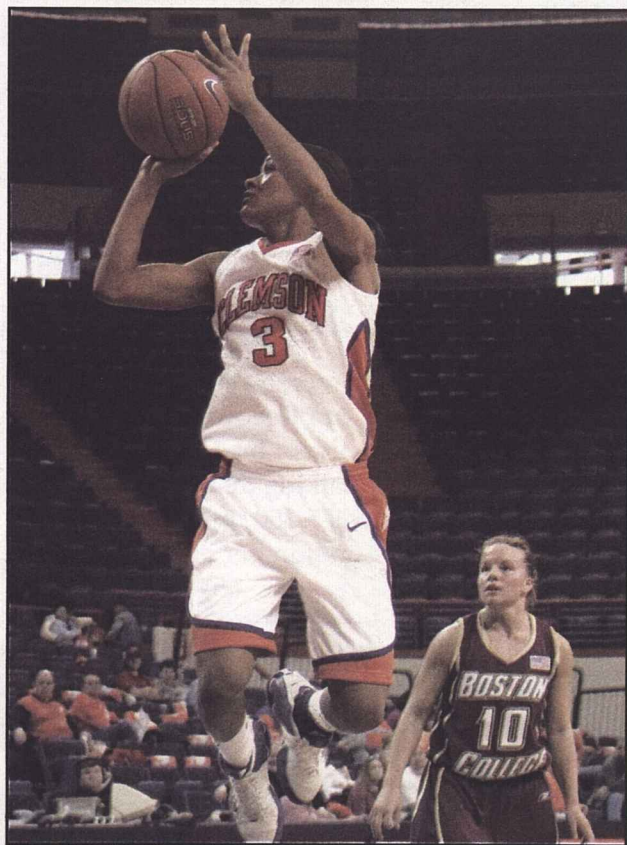
for the Tigers. Robinson had a season-high of 24 points, with five three-pointers to give the Tigers the win and bump them up to 4-8 in the ACC. This win put Clemson at their fourth straight win over the Terps, equaling the record of four in a row set in 1949-51.

Hitting three-pointers all night was the Tigers' specialty on Valentine's Day. They made 12 three-pointers in the game, their highest in the ACC this season. The teams went to the locker rooms at the half looking at a tie game.

Maryland's D.J. Strawberry made one final jumper to take the lead for the Terps edging the Tigers to a 50-49 game with less than three minutes to go. The Terps would not take the lead again. The Terps' Nik Caner-Medley contributed a total of 21 points and 12 rebounds to increase Maryland's chances down low coupled with fellow Terp Mike Jones' 19 points. However, it would not be enough with Akin Akingbala's 13 total rebounds. Akingbala and teammate Cliff Hammonds scored a total of 14 and 17 points, respectively, giving the Tigers an extra boost.

The Tigers are back in action this Wednesday as they travel to Winston-Salem, N.C., to face the Demon Deacons of Wake Forest at 7 p.m.

Women's basketball drops two contests



BRIAN SCHNEIDER/staff

JUMPER: Lady Tiger Tasha Taylor takes a shot in front of a Boston College player last week.

Hokies and Demon Deacons beat Tigers in consecutive road games.

LINDSEY MELESKI
STAFF WRITER

Playing on the road is never easy, especially when it's back to back. Despite their grueling efforts, the Clemson women's basketball team fell to Virginia Tech 82-70 in Blacksburg, Va., Thursday night. The loss dropped the Lady Tigers to 8-15 on the year, 2-7 in the ACC, while the Hokies improved to 16-6 overall and 3-6 in conference play.

Senior Amanda Frist started her 100th career game contributing 16 points. Frist was one of three double-figure scorers. Tasha Taylor added 12 points while Maxienne White scored 21 points, her second straight 20-plus total.

Virginia Tech came out strong leading 21-6 and maintaining an 18 point lead in the first half. Clemson fought hard to bring the game within

10 points, but the damage had already been done. The Lady Tigers were unable to stop the Hokies defensively as they went on to claim the win 82-70.

After suffering their Thursday night loss, the Lady Tigers hit the road once again, this time to Winston-Salem, hoping for a better result. Suffering their sixth straight loss by a repeat 82-70 margin, the Tiger's managed to put up quite a fight.

The Demon Deacons hit 16 three-point field goals on Sunday afternoon, the most Clemson has given up in history. Starting the game off with a bang, the Demon Deacons immediately went up 7-0. The Tigers did not manage to hit a basket until five minutes into the half. Despite being down by 12, the Lady Tigers were not ready to throw in the towel just yet. White scored seven straight points to minimize the gap within six points at the half.

Threatening the Demon Deacon's lead, the Lady Tigers scored the first four points in the second half. Unfortunately, the Demon Deacons responded with three straight

see **LOSSES**, page B4

TIGER SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 2/17

Baseball
vs. James Madison —
Clemson, S.C. — 4 p.m.

Swimming & Diving
ACC Women's Champs. —
College Park, Md. — All Day

Men's Tennis
Clemson Spring Classic —
Clemson, S.C. — All Day

SATURDAY 2/18

Women's Tennis
vs. Furman — Clemson, S.C.
— 11 a.m.

Baseball
vs. James Madison —
Clemson, S.C. — 2 p.m.

Swimming & Diving
ACC Women's Champs. —
College Park, Md. — All Day

SUNDAY 2/19

Baseball
vs. James Madison —
Clemson, S.C. — 1 p.m.

Women's Tennis
vs. South Carolina —
Columbia, S.C. — 1 p.m.

Women's Basketball
vs. Florida State — Clemson,
S.C. — 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 2/22

Women's Tennis
vs. Georgia — Athens, Ga.
— 2:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball
vs. Wake Forest — Winston-
Salem, N.C. — 7 p.m.

Swimming & Diving
ACC Women's Champs. —
College Park, Md. — All Day



Clemson baseball begins today. For an in-depth preview of every aspect of the No. 1 Tigers' team, check page B5.

All-American Hill discusses future in the NFL

Former Tiger cornerback prepares for upcoming NFL Combine, Draft.

BUCKY BERLIN
STAFF WRITER

With the football off-season in full swing, players grind out hours of workouts, coaches evaluate rosters and the arm-chair quarterbacks of the nation read endless pages of scouting reports, team transactions and mock drafts, all in preparation for the fall season to come.

With the college national signing day over, all focus shifts to the next big event: the 2006 NFL Draft. Who is going where? Who will make the biggest impact? Are the players ready for the next level?

Former Clemson defensive back Tye Hill finds himself amongst the chatter.

He is ranked as one of the best corners in the draft. He is one of the fastest players in the game. He has proven that he is aggressive and tough enough to play the entire field and make the big play.

Is Hill a first round pick? Most scouts think so.

The St. George, S.C., native has come a long way since Woodland High School, where he rushed for 1,445 yards and 16 touchdowns in just seven games as a senior.

After coming to Clemson originally as a running back, he made the transition to cornerback his sophomore season and has been picking apart offenses ever since.

Hill's speed and mobility allow him to keep up with any wide receiver on the field — and for that matter, any player on the field. For good reason too: He also ran track during his time at Clemson, and was the 2004 ACC Champion in the outdoor 100-meter dash and the indoor 60-meter dash.

Through it all, his biggest mark has been made on the Clemson secondary, wearing the number eight. Tying the Clemson mark for 21 passes defended in 2004, Hill has also been in the spotlight of some of the biggest games in recent Clemson history with his blocked pass that sealed the win over the Miami Hurricanes in 2004 and an interception against Florida State in 2003 to upset the nationally-ranked Seminoles.

As he prepares himself for the 2006 NFL combine and draft, Hill stands on the edge of fulfilling a childhood dream.

The Tiger caught up with him recently while he was between workouts at an athletic training facility in Arizona.

What have you been up to since the end of the regular season and the Champs Sports Bowl?

Back to training, getting ready for the NFL combine.

How did you end up out in Arizona?

My agent — this is where he wanted me to come. This is one of the best facilities in the country for draft preparations, so that's how I got hooked up to it.

How have you been preparing for the upcoming combine?

Working out, preparation for the 40-yard dash, the cone drills, specific drills that I'm going to have to do when I get out there.

Are there any NFL teams or coaches that have spoken to you at the Senior Bowl or other workouts?

I've talked to all 32 teams already.

If you could choose, where would you play in the NFL?

I'd like to play somewhere close, somewhere like the Panthers or the Falcons if I had a choice. But I don't really have a choice, so I really don't care where I go.

In transitioning to the NFL, what adjustments do you have to make at your position?

There are going to be a lot of adjustments. As far as right now I couldn't really tell you what they are going to be because I just don't know yet. The speed of the game, it's going to be a whole lot quicker.

What do you look forward to the most about playing in the NFL?

Putting on my NFL jersey for the first time, going out there and realizing I've accomplished my childhood dream.

How much did it benefit you to return for your senior season?

I think it benefited me tremendously, because if I would have left last year, I would have gone in with a second or third round grade rather than this year I'm going in with a first or second round grade. And now I have a chance to go

as high as I can, according to me. I control my fate, my destiny right now, whereas last year I would have had to run my way into the first round.

Are there any players in particular that you looked up to when you were younger?

As far as the NFL and as far as professionals, I would say Deion Sanders Warrick Dunn.

What is your biggest motivation?

I'm self-motivated. I'm motivated to be the best, and go out and play as hard as I can.

Do you have a unique pre-game routine or any superstitions?

Not really, I just kind of do everything from right to left.

When I'm putting on everything as far as my gear for the game I try to make sure I do everything from right to left; I put everything on right, and I put everything on left, as far as my shoes, as far as my socks, as far as my pads, as far as my pants, and putting the pads in my pants, everything from right to left. That's basically it.

You originally came to Clemson as a running back; what was the transition like to cornerback?

It was hard at first, but as I started understanding what I was supposed to be doing it became kind of easy. It's been a learning process though, I'm still learning really, getting better and better everyday I step on the field to play this position.

Duane Coleman made the same transition this past season; how do you think he did?

I think Duane made a smooth transition. To be honest with you, I think he made a better transition than I did at first. I think he's going to be a great cornerback for Clemson, and for him next year coming out in the draft, I think he has a chance to go really high with his versatility on offense and defense.

Was there a particular game or play from your time at Clemson that really sticks out in your memory?

The win my sophomore year against Florida State when I picked them off.

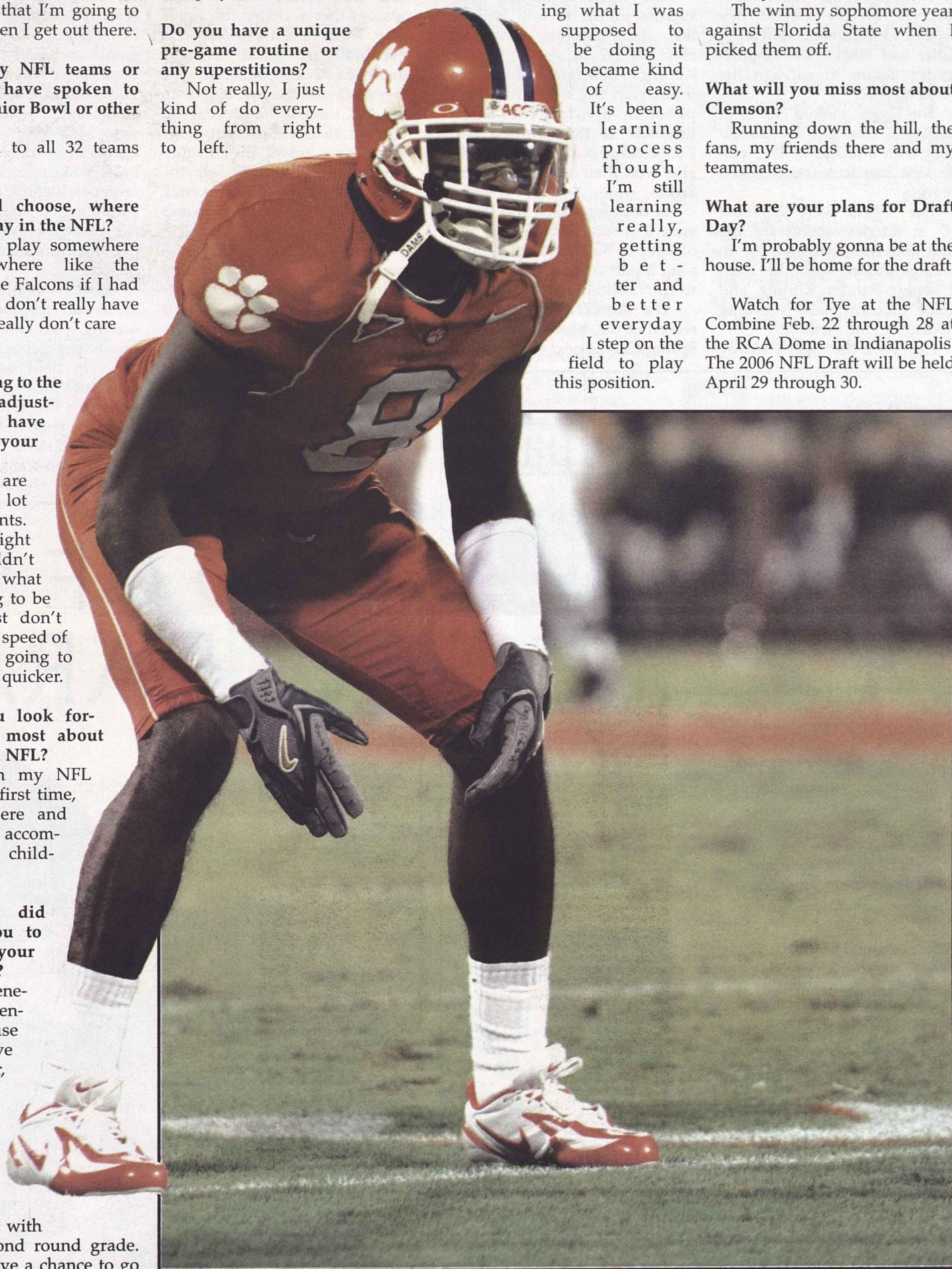
What will you miss most about Clemson?

Running down the hill, the fans, my friends there and my teammates.

What are your plans for Draft Day?

I'm probably gonna be at the house. I'll be home for the draft.

Watch for Tye at the NFL Combine Feb. 22 through 28 at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis. The 2006 NFL Draft will be held April 29 through 30.



Vital Stats

- 5'10" • 180 Pounds • Woodlands High School • Saint George, S.C. •
- Consensus First-Team All-American for 2005 •
- First-Team All-ACC selection by ACSMA and the AP for 2005 •
- Tied the Clemson record for passes broken up with 21 in 2004 •
- Finished his career with six interceptions, 35 passes broken-up and 41 passes defended •
- Hill has worn number eight since he started varsity football in high school •
- Started at cornerback in the 2006 Senior Bowl presented by Food World •
- One of three finalists for the Jim Thorpe Award which is presented to the nation's best defensive back •
- Hill sprinted for the Clemson track team during 2003 and 2004 •

Tennis takes two

No. 25 Tigers fall against Illini, but come back to beat Bulldogs, Crimson.

ALEX SERENO
STAFF WRITER

The Clemson Men's Tennis team traveled to Urbana, Ill. this past weekend for the Illinois Invitational.

The Tigers lost their opening match to third ranked Illinois on Saturday. They rebounded, however, on the second day of the tournament, defeating Butler and Harvard in double-header action to salvage the weekend.

The Tigers, ranked No. 25 in the nation, went into the tournament with a record of 4-1, with the lone loss to second ranked Georgia.

The Tigers were defeated 7-0 in singles action by the Illini and were defeated 2-1 in doubles action, with the team of senior Sander Koning and junior Clement Reix recording Clemson's lone victory.

However, the Tigers, led by

Koning and Reix, turned their fortunes around Sunday, defeating the Butler Bulldogs 6-1 in singles action.

Koning, a native of Oosthuizen, Holland red-shirted last season but was All-ACC in the 2002-2003 season.

Top-seeded Koning defeated Brandon Gill of Butler 6-2, 6-1 in straight sets, while second seeded Reix defeated Butler's James Lowe 6-4, 5-7 and 6-4. Jarmaine Jenkins, Ryan Young, Clint Boling and Brett Twente also recorded victories for the Tigers.

The Tigers continued their success in the second half of the doubleheader defeating Harvard 5-2 in singles action. Koning defeated Harvard's Brian Wan 6-3, 6-1, while Reix picked up a victory over Sasha Ermakov of the Crimson 6-2, 7-5. Jenkins, Boling and Twente also won their matches for the Tigers.

In doubles action, the Tigers were less successful, losing two of three to Butler and also dropping a pair of doubles matches to Harvard.

The Tigers, now sporting a record of 6-2, host the Clemson Spring Classic next weekend.

Tigers look to make it a season sweep of Deacs

Coming off victory against Maryland, Clemson will try to beat Wake again.

KRISTEN MCKENNA
STAFF WRITER

Earlier this season, the Clemson men's basketball team kept fans at the edge of their seats as they watched the Tigers play Wake Forest at home and eventually go on to win the game 74-73 in overtime. The Tigers (14-10 overall in 3-8 in the ACC) will be hoping to earn another victory this Wednesday when they travel to Winston-Salem, N.C., to take on the Demon Deacons (13-11 overall, and 1-9 in the ACC) for the second time this season.

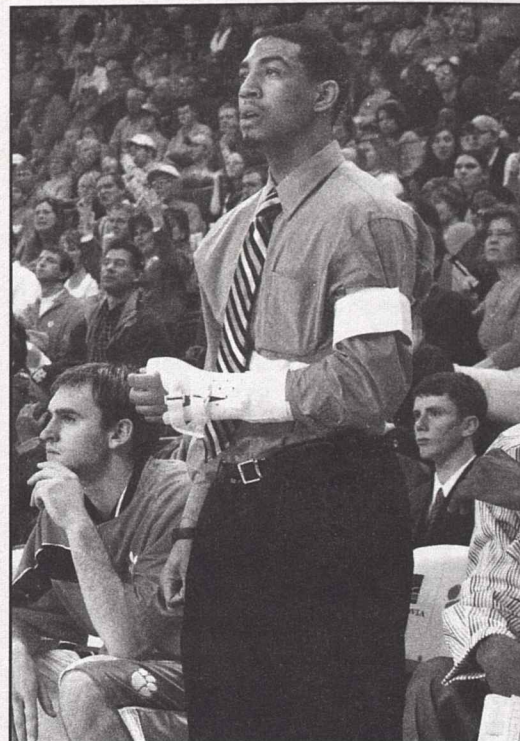
Junior Vernon Hamilton remains the team's leading scorer on the season, averaging 12.3 points per game. He is shooting .361 inside the paint, and Hamilton will also help the Tigers defensively, as he leads the team in steals with 65. He missed the win over Maryland on Valentine's Day with a thumb and elbow injury but should be back for the Wake Forest contest.

Shawan Robinson is second on the team in scoring, with an average of 11.1 points per game. However, he will be a key player at the free throw line as he has a .938 free throw percentage.

Akin Akingbala should be the Demon Deacons' biggest threat defensively. He is second on the team in rebounds (7.3 per game) and leads the Tigers in blocks (34). Wake Forest also has some high scorers who will keep the Clemson defense busy. Wake's leading scorer is Justin Gray, averaging 19 points per game and shooting .402 from behind the arc.

Eric Williams is second for the Deacons in scoring, with an average of 15.8 points per game, and he leads them in field goals, shooting .638. But Williams might be even more of a threat defensively. He leads the team in blocks (8.6 per game) and steals (31).

Clemson trails opponents in three-point shooting (.296) and



BRIAN SCHNEIDER / staff

FALLEN STAR: Clemson guard Vernon Hamilton is missing time with an injury.

free throws (.604), but the Tigers lead their competition in assists (14.1 per game), steals (10.8 per game), blocks (five per game) and rebounds (37.5 per game).

The game will be played at 7 p.m. in Winston-Salem, N.C. Clemson fans can follow the game on the clemson.com gametracker feature.

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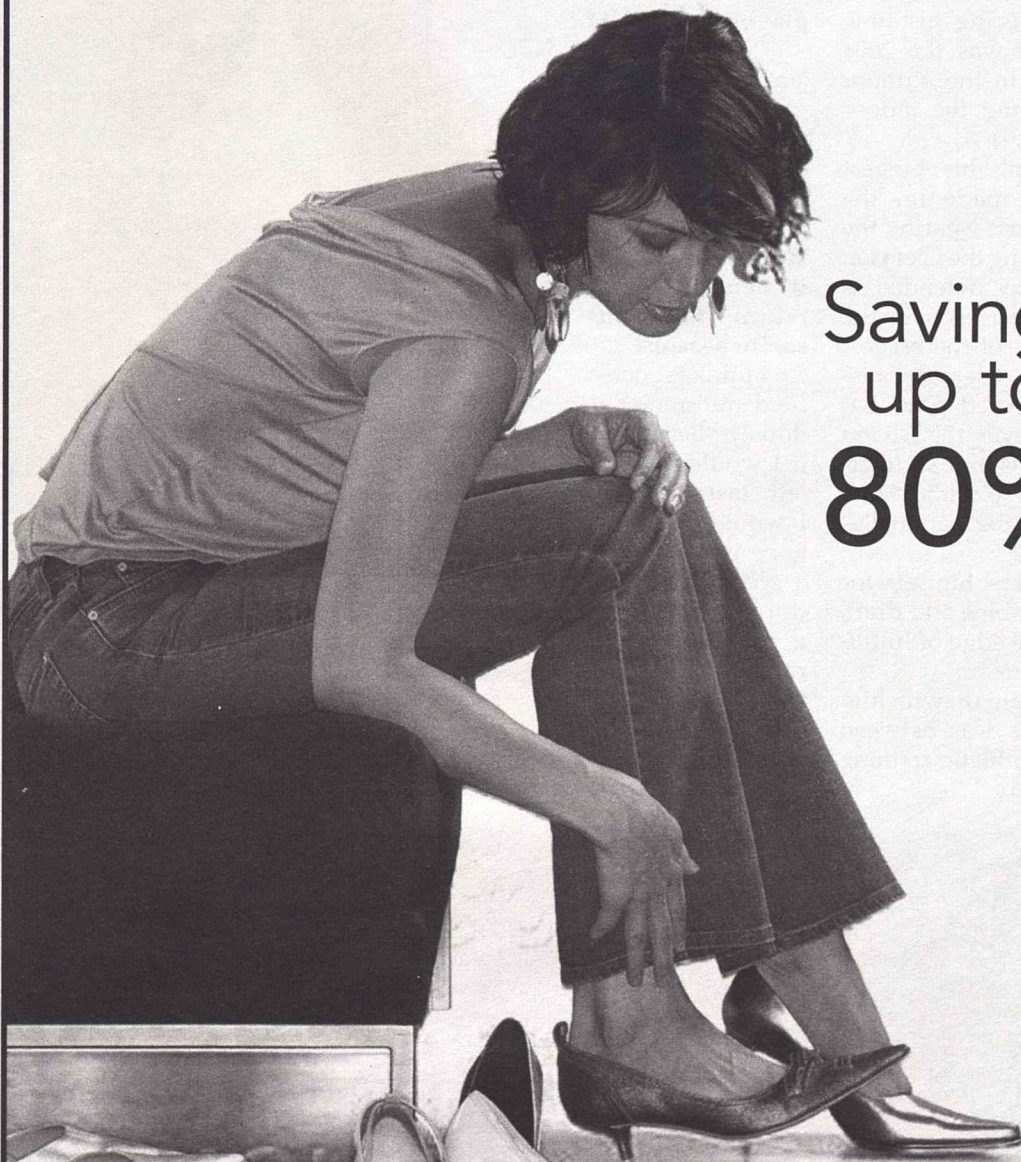
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GAMES: Bode, Grizzly Man, curling highlight Torino Olympics *from page B1*

blame you man, that trip would have been like the Oregon Trail and all you get at the end after fording rivers and rescuing your family from dysentery is a crummy gold medal for you and your country (which by the way have you seen the medals at Torino this year? It looks like somebody raided Michael Jackson's gold record collection, ran a ribbon through each of them and distributed them to the top three in each event. They're just plain ugly).

But seriously, just because you don't care about winning medals doesn't mean that your country or your sponsors feel the same way. Don't get me wrong, Bode's a great athlete, and there is no disputing that. But he needs to grow up and properly represent our country. Even Picabo Street agreed, which brings me to my next point. Is her name actually Picabo Street (pronounced peek-a-boo street)? I mean it sounds like something off Mister Rogers' Neighborhood.

Then on Tuesday night, I fell asleep with the Olympics on. What seemed like shortly thereafter (probably more like two hours), I awoke to the sound of some funky

European techno mix and Yevgeny Plushenko ice skating to it. The first thought that came to my mind was not, "Wow there's freaky techno playing in my room, and I'm home alone." Instead, my first thought was that Plushenko bears an uncanny resemblance to the Grizzly Man (no pun intended). If you wondering who the Grizzly Man is, you need to see this film. It's about a man named Timothy Treadwell who has spent his last 13 summers in the Alaskan wilderness studying grizzly bears. Anyway, half way through the movie, after Grizzly Man has fondled a huge pile of bear poop, shouted at God for not sending rain and cursed out a baby fox for stealing his Pittsburgh Pirates hat, you start to wonder if this really is a serious documentary or if it's just another one of those Saturday Night Live spin-off movies. It is a good movie if you're into nature, but at the same time, you realize that the Grizzly Man really did have some issues.

And last but not least, we have curling. This Olympic sport is basically an oversized game of shuffleboard that is played on ice. Besides the obvious question of who invented this, who actually decided that it required

enough skill to become an Olympic sport? One of the alternates for the American team is almost 55 years old (54 years, 285 days to be exact). If you're that age you should not be performing in the Olympics, or any sport for that matter, unless you're one of the crypt keepers that performed during halftime of Super Bowl XL. And the really crazy thing is that people actually watch curling, myself included. But some people are actually quite passionate about it. Take my roommate (who shall remain anonymous) for instance, he actually finished studying for an exam around 1:30 a.m. and decided to just stay up the rest of the night, so he could catch curling, live. Yeah man nothing beats a good curling match at 3:30 in the morning.

But as I continue to watch the last 10 or so days of the Games, I'm confident that Bode will make a few more ignorant comments, the Americans will take the medal count lead and inevitably the old man will get to curl. At least that's what I'm hoping to see before Feb. 26 rolls around, and I have to wait another four years for the same frigid excitement.

LOSSES: FSU comes to Littlejohn Sunday *from page B1*

three-pointers to race ahead. Converting 10 free throws helped Wake Forest clinch their victory, leaving the Tigers defeated and with a record of 8-16 overall (2-8 ACC).

Freshman Susan Yenser posted a team-best 16 points, hitting four of five three-point

field goals. Other double figure scorers included White, Frist and Taylor. Frist also contributed eight rebounds.

Looking for a win, Coach McKinney's squad will take the court again Sunday against Florida State in Littlejohn Coliseum.

Got a story idea? E-mail Josh at sports@thetigernews.com.

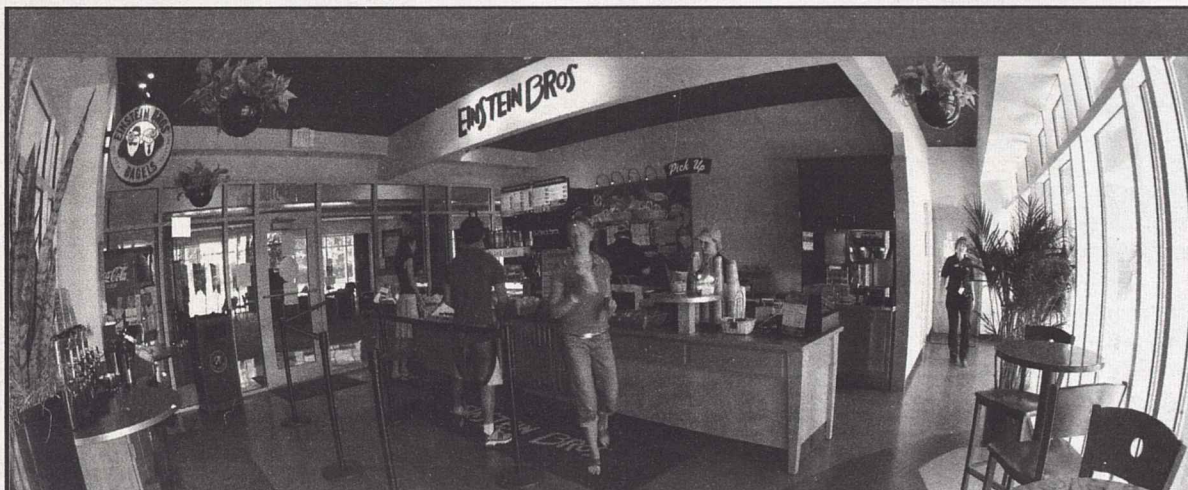
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STAFF WRITERS



As has been the case for the majority of the Jack Leggett era, the word "Omaha" has been stitched into the tiger paw on the back of Clemson's ballcaps. With a young team that stumbled out of the gates to open the 2005 season, the Tigers were able to find their stride and came within a game of their goal — a trip to Omaha to compete for the national title. A year later the Tigers find themselves ranked atop the national polls as they enter the 2006 season, but they will not be satisfied without their 11th trip to Omaha.

OFFENSE

Although the days of hearing the song "Danger Zone" at Doug Kingsmore Stadium as powerful designated hitter Kris Harvey (.341 batting average, 25 homeruns, 70 RBI) approaches the plate are over, the Tiger faithful shouldn't be alarmed.

Harvey, who chose to forego his senior season after leading the ACC in homeruns, had four teammates surpass his impressive batting average last season. While only one other player in the entire country outdid his homerun total in 2005, there are plenty of sluggers to be feared on the 2006 squad. This is no secret, as Clemson is a team with a bull's-eye on its back, entering their opening weekend atop the polls at number one in the nation.

Clemson's top returning player, sophomore second baseman Taylor Harbin, looks to lead the Tigers after a spectacular freshman season in which he was named a second team All-American. In addition to his solid play in the field, he enters the 2006 season as the returning leader in RBI (63), hits (94) and doubles (28). While hitting the 28 doubles, he set a Clemson freshman record and had the second highest total in Clemson history behind Khalil Greene, who is now with the San Diego Padres.

The Tigers can also count on solid play from senior right fielder Travis Storrer who batted .346 to go along with 43 RBIs in 2005. Storrer, a preseason 2006 all-ACC pick, was a model of consistency for the Tigers, as he hit safely

in 29 of the final 30 games.

Another senior leader for the Tigers will be third baseman Herman Demmink, who batted an impressive .345 last season. Demmink was the leadoff batter last season and should again be at the top of the order this season for Jack Leggett's squad.

Last season's leading batter, sophomore center fielder Brad Chalk is already being tabbed as preseason All-ACC player. While only seven of his seventy hits took him further than first base, he batted .350 for this season. He was able to draw 34 walks, which is excellent from the second spot in the batting order, setting the plate for sluggers like Harbin and Harvey. He also set the school record for sacrifice bunts in a season with 15.

Shortstop Stan Widmann, another impressive sophomore on the young Tiger team, returns after batting .289 in his freshman campaign. Widmann, who struggled early in the year while he found his footing, provided excellent batting in the lower part of the order.

Left fielder Tyler Colvin is another solid hitter for the Tigers, as he was second on the team in doubles (22). He was also fourth on the team with 53 RBI. Look for him to improve on his .283 average this season.

The Tiger's most powerful batter will be junior first baseman Andy D'Alessio. With a ferocious homerun cut, he was second on the team with 15 homers. He also had an impressive 60 RBIs but only batted .276.

D'Alessio is a streaky hitter who needs to work on bringing his average up but is always capable of putting one over the fence. Look for him to bat cleanup this season; the spot left void by Harvey.

Senior catcher Adrian Casanova, in his second season at Clemson, will round out the batting order at the number nine position. Known more for his defensive prowess, he batted .238 for the season but thrived during ACC play when he hit an impressive .316 while compiling nearly all of his ten extra base hits.

The designated hitter position is somewhat of a question mark but expect John Ingram or Ben Hall to fill the spot. Hall, a senior, has proven himself to be an excellent pinch hitter as he hit .319 last season in 47 at bats. Ingram, a powerful junior, saw only limited action last season as he hit .136 in 22 at bats. Look for Coach Leggett to give the two plenty of chances in the early weeks of the season. Also look for junior college transfer Marquez Smith to have a shot at the position.

OUTFIELD

Manning the outfield at Doug Kingsmore Stadium (or Tiger Field as some of us still like to call it) has always been a burden for opposing teams.

On top of the hecklers in the outfield, opponents have to deal with the incline that lies near the fence in center field. This has caused many errors over the years and is part of Clemson's mighty home field advantage.

Without the jeers from the fans of the "Cheap Seats" bus and all the other fans that reside beyond the fence, as well as knowing the lay of the land, a day in the Clemson outfield is usually a walk in the park for the Tigers.

Clemson's outfield is one of the best in the ACC from a defensive standpoint. The three returning starters (Storrer, Chalk and Colvin) combined to commit only five errors in 308 opportunities for a fielding percentage of .983.

Travis Storrer led the way in right field, as he did not commit a single error in his 92 chances. His strong arm helped give him

eight assists on the year to go along with three double plays.

In center field, Brad Chalk was also impressive. In 115 opportunities, he committed only two errors. In a 2006 baseball preview issue, "Baseball America" said that Chalk has the best arm in the outfield in the ACC.

Rounding out the outfield is Tyler Colvin who had only three errors in his 101 opportunities. He had nine assists on the season and proved to be very reliable.

INFIELD

The Tigers should be a strong team fielding team, with two of the four infielders posting fielding percentages of .970 or better last season. Sophomore Taylor Harbin, who will start at shortstop for the Tigers, had a .974 fielding percentage. Stan Widmann, also a sophomore, had a .925 fielding percentage last season at second base. If Harbin and Widmann can improve on their freshmen seasons, the Tigers could have one of the best double-play threats in all of college baseball.

Starting at third base will be senior Hermann Demmink. While known for being a good hitter with a .345 batting average last season, Demmink has performed well at the hot corner in his time at Clemson. Demmink had a .935 fielding percentage last season, which is not overly impressive, but he has been known to make outstanding plays that overshadow the occasional error.

Junior Andy D'Alessio will be starting at first base for the Tigers. D'Alessio has a .276 career batting average, one of the poorer averages on the team, but the junior makes up for it with his glove. D'Alessio had a .987 fielding percentage last year, and he rounds out an infield that should be able to provide solid defense for Clemson's pitchers this season.

PITCHING

Baseball, more than any other sport, is a game that is woven into the fabric of Americana. Despite its unpredictability, baseball has many adages and anecdotes to help fans predict the outcome of a game. Perhaps the most famous of these sayings is that good pitching beats good hitting every time. If that old saying about America's pastime holds true, 2006 could be a special year for Clemson baseball.

After cruising through the Regionals of the NCAA Tournament last year, the Tigers lost a three-game Super Regional series to the Baylor Bears, which ended their hopes of another trip to Omaha. Clemson won the first of the three games, only to run into Baylor's two best starting pitchers, who made Clemson look inept at the plate for the better part of the last two games.

While Clemson did lose all-purpose

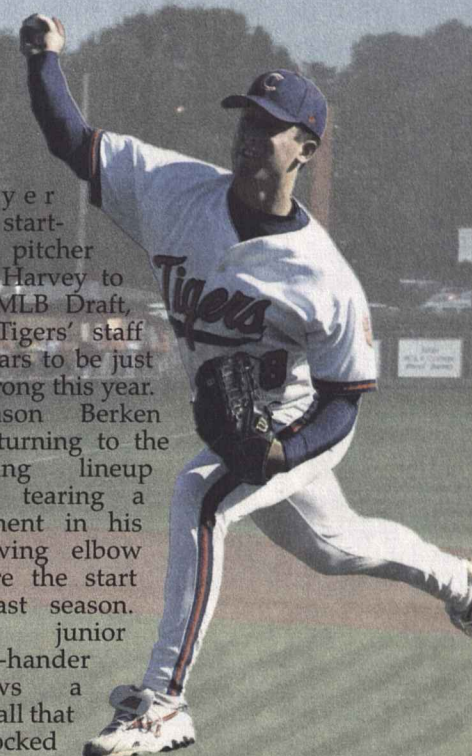
player and starting pitcher Kris Harvey to the MLB Draft, the Tigers' staff appears to be just as strong this year.

Jason Berken is returning to the starting lineup after tearing a ligament in his throwing elbow before the start of last season. The junior right-hander throws a fastball that is clocked in the mid-90s, and his stint in rehab allowed him to work on mid-speed pitches. Berken has a career 2.90 ERA over 105.2 innings pitched and barring another injury, should be the Tigers' number one starter throughout the season.

Josh Cribb, who was Clemson's best pitcher as the 2005 season wound down, brings a 3.65 career ERA to the hill. Cribb's scariest pitch may be a breaking curveball that he can release from different arm angles. The red-shirt senior also has great control — he has only allowed 2.08 walks every nine innings, the second best walk-to-inning ratio in Tiger history. Cribb also struck out 97 batters over 109.1 innings of relief last season.

Junior Steven Faris and senior Josh Cribb round out Clemson's starting rotation. Faris, who has gone from a reliever to a full-fledged starter, is primarily a control pitcher. Faris has a 3.88 career ERA. Like Cribb, Faris is a pitcher who forces batters to put the ball in play. Over his career with the Tigers, Faris has allowed only 2.33 walks per nine innings, the seventh best ratio in school history.

The Tigers also appear to have a reliable closer in Steve Richard. A transfer from the University of Maine, the junior has a 2.49 career ERA in 31 appearances on the mound. "He (Richard) has a great fastball with very good control, and he has a couple of good breaking pitches," Clemson head coach Jack Leggett says. Due to the fact that college ball offenses are powered by the use of the aluminum bat, relief pitching is particularly important in the late innings. If Richard can live up to his billing, Clemson will be able to protect late leads on a consistent basis.



PERSPECTIVES

SECTION

C

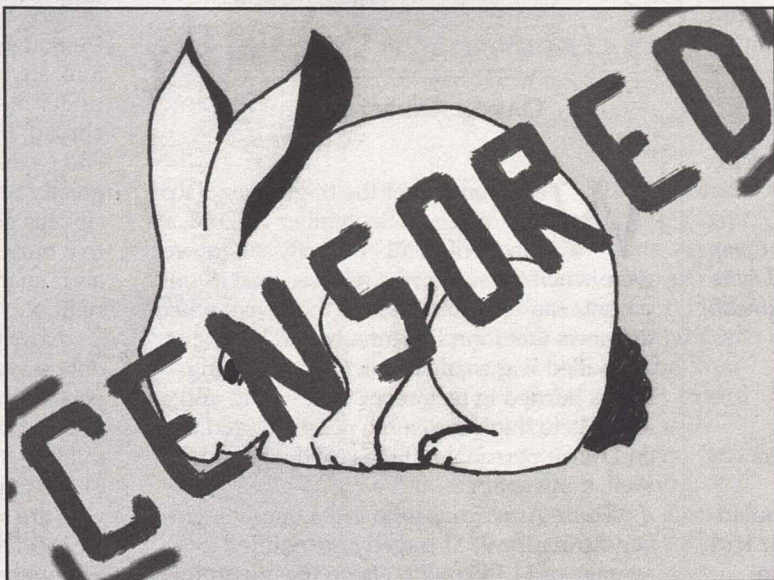
Offensive cartoon too edgy to print

A wave of protest has swept across the world in the last several weeks in reaction to a series of cartoons originally published in a Danish newspaper. One cartoon, which has been reprinted in other European newspapers and has spawned numerous reacting cartoons, depicted the Islamic prophet Muhammad wearing a turban resembling a bomb. Protests against this cartoon, often violent, have engulfed the Muslim world, and Muslims in Western countries have been equally vocal, although much less violent. The uproar stems from a Muslim religious teaching forbidding the depiction of Muhammed, although many are undoubtedly upset as well over the portrayal of all Muslims as terrorists.

The reactions in the West and the Middle East underscore the large rift between the West and the Muslim world. The offending cartoons were originally published in September and received almost no notice, even among European Muslim populations. It was not until the cartoons made their way to Middle East — by whatever means and motive — that the chaos really then erupted. Violent street protests erupted across the Muslim world. Several Danish consulates were burned, and people died in the protests.

The protests spread to encompass the entire West, with chants of "Death to Denmark" morphing into "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." Islamic groups have called for boycotts of Danish companies, but recent rioting in Islamabad has targeted all Western businesses.

The cartoons, while constituting permissible social commentary, have only provided fuel for an already prevalent



anti-Western sentiment among Muslim nations. The sensitive nature of the subject matter combined with the current political climate make the choice to print the cartoons highly questionable. The newspapers that published the cartoons were certainly within their rights to do so, but just because one can do something does not mean one necessarily should.

The violent response to these cartoons (and some would argue they were not even particularly good cartoons) is by no means justified, but the newspapers should have considered this response when they chose to publish the cartoons. The fact that people may be offended is not necessarily a reason not to publish something, but the

nature of the offense caused and the consequences of the potential response must be taken into account.

In the case of these cartoons,

the cartoonist was directly violating Islamic religious law. This transgression is not a criminal offense in Western countries, but it can certainly offend people. Moreover, the subjects of the cartoon — radical Islamic militants — would certainly react negatively. When these

individuals react negatively they do not just write letters to the editor, they riot in the streets and burn things; they react violently.

The newspaper editors should have anticipated this reaction when they published the cartoons. The Jyllands-Posten, the Danish newspaper

THE ISSUE
A SERIES OF CARTOONS FROM A DANISH NEWSPAPER ARE CAUSING RIOTS AND ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENT AROUND THE WORLD.

OUR VIEW
THE NEWSPAPER SHOULD HAVE EXERCISED MORE DISCRETION WHEN PUBLISHING THE CARTOON.

Sheehan's antics at speech immature



BRANDON JONES
columnist

The evening of Feb. 1 marked President Bush's fifth State of the Union address to the nation. And while most Americans waited in anticipation for Bush's agenda, liberal activist Cindy Sheehan had her own agenda. Sheehan, whose son lost his life in the midst of the Iraqi war, has been an outspoken critic of both the Bush administration and the Republican Party in general. Essentially, she has become the symbol for the Democratic Party's overwhelmingly anti-war stance. Minutes before Bush's address to the nation, Sheehan attempted to take her seat wearing a t-shirt with the words "2,245 Dead. How many more?" Upon refusing to cover the t-shirt, Sheehan was detained and led out of the Capitol, where she spent four hours in jail.

Frankly, I do not know which is more despicable — the fact that fellow liberal Rep. Lynn Woolsey of California invited Sheehan to the address or the fact that Sheehan had the audacity to display such behavior. In reality, both Woolsey and Sheehan are to blame for this situation.

Sheehan's antics on Wednesday evening only reaffirm the utter disdain and irreverence that the Democratic Party has toward our nation's leader. The State of the Union address serves to inform the people of America on a President's policy agenda. It is a formal speech that people must respect. In addition, the State of the Union address is not meant to be some sort of bipartisan cockfight. It is a chance for members of every political party to come together and listen to the President's agenda, without the day-to-day political outbursts. Therefore, Cindy Sheehan's ploy to turn the State of the Union address into an activist demonstration was irreverent and immature.

In an online statement given on buzzflash.com, Sheehan gave her side of the story that night. In Sheehan's words, the revelation of her t-shirt was because she felt warm. Said Sheehan, "I had just sat down and I was warm from climbing three flights of stairs back up from the bathroom so I unzipped my jacket." By her account, it seems as though her arrest was quite unsubstantiated. However, Sheehan goes on to add, "I wore the shirt to make a statement. The press knew I was going to be there, and I thought every once in awhile they would show me and I would have the shirt on." Does her arrest seem unsubstantiated anymore? I think not. If Sheehan was warm, she should have rolled up her sleeves. She knew all along what kind of uproar her ploy would produce (as evidenced by her statements).

Cindy Sheehan got her 15 minutes of fame during the summer when she picketed outside President Bush's Texas ranch. America watched as the Democratic Party applauded her anti-war stance. However, I, along with many others, did not think that her fame would resurface. We were wrong.

Sheehan's appearance at the Capitol Wednesday evening was one of the most immature displays that I can recall. In this time of such political turmoil and utter disdain among political parties, nothing good can come of Sheehan's actions. America has to put political differences aside and must realize that these displays by activists are only hurting the political process. Shame on Rep. Lynn Woolsey for inviting Sheehan to the address in the first place. It would be naive to think that Woolsey did not know that Sheehan might have ulterior motives for attending the event. And shame on Cindy Sheehan for turning such a non-partisan event into a display of partisan politics.

America has not overlooked Cindy Sheehan's childish display. If it is attention that she strives for, acting in a mature fashion is a more productive way of getting people to listen to you. Also, please save the activist t-shirt for a concert. In the adult world, we attend formal events dressed in formal attire.

BRANDON JONES is a junior majoring in political science. E-mail comments to letters@TheTigerNews.com.

SPEAKING

Should the Danish newspaper have published its controversial cartoon?



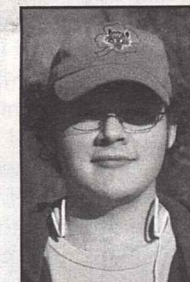
Vanessa Reinartz
English
freshman

"The cartoon is a freedom of expression. Perhaps it is different in other countries, but it is commonplace in the U.S. to target religious persons."

"I think you should respect other people's religions, and it seems to be offensive given the situation in the world."



Graham Buckner
political science
senior



Hunter Sommers
history
freshman

"I think it makes the Islamic world more agitated at the Western world. That is the last thing we need."

"Yes, the Danish papers had every right to exploit the negative political ideology of Islamic extremists."



Taylor Fricke
health and biochemistry
junior



Ashley Rooker
architecture
sophomore

"As an American, I support freedom of speech. I think if they want to print it they should be allowed to."

"The cartoon was an expression of freedom of speech. This would not be the first time a caricature was printed."



Ashley Felker
political science and economics
sophomore

LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR

Letters should be no longer than 400 words. Feedback from our website may also be considered for publication. Submissions must include the author's name and phone number (or e-mail address) and optionally hometown, class and major. All submissions will be checked for authenticity and may be edited for clarity and grammar. Space considerations may result in submissions being held for later publication. THE TIGER reserves the right to print or edit all submissions. Send letters to our U.S. Mail address or e-mail them to letters@TheTigerNews.com.

Vegan Outreach reiterates cruelty of modern agribusiness

As one of the two individuals who handed out Vegan Outreach's "Even If You Like Meat" booklets recently at Clemson, I took a special interest in reading your Feb. 10 article, "Farm cruelty flyer plays on misconceptions."

The late astronomer Carl Sagan noted that "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence." With this in mind, the assertions set forth in our "Even If You Like Meat" booklet are bolstered by well-documented references (most of which are straight from animal agribusiness trade journals and the USDA itself). It is quite easy to see the references footnoted throughout our booklet and it is unfortunate that the author of "Farm cruelty" did not hold himself to similar basic journalistic standards while composing the aforementioned piece.

So that there is no confusion, the key point that we wish to convey to the general public through our booklet is simple: Animals suffer immensely on today's factory farms and industrial slaughterhouses. Compassionate, ethical individuals who don't wish to contribute to this suffering can eat more vegetarian fare.

Today's animal agribusiness inflicts great misery and denies farmed animals many of their most elemental desires. For example, egg-laying hens have parts of their beaks seared off with hot metal blades and live for months on end in cages so small that they can't even spread their wings; pregnant sows endure month after month in crates which deny them the ability to even turn around. Transport to slaughter is often a lengthy ordeal devoid of adequate space, food or water, and at

slaughter, animals are often dismembered while still fully conscious. These statements do not constitute guesswork — they are all well-documented.

As civilized, intelligent beings making complex ethical decisions, we should not base our code of conduct around how our primitive ancestors would have responded, nor if the acts we take part in are connected to a well-established tradition. Ethics require that we view the world as is and figure out how we can make it a better place in the here and now. Each one of us can reduce significant animal suffering by opting for more vegetarian fare. For more information, including references, please visit veganoutreach.org

Jon Camp
Outreach Coordinator
Vegan Outreach

Rolling Stones still a great band

I have a few comments about Lindsay Brasington's article entitled "Stones should grow up."

First, it is not the Stones that should grow up, it is Ms. Brasington. If she had done her research, like a true columnist, she would know the respect that follows the Rolling Stones. The band has made history through the years and continues to receive awards today. They are not a band of the past. They made the road of the past and continue to shape most of the artists today. As mentioned towards the end of the article, the announcers "called them the greatest rock band of all time." This being said, the men do not need to act 60 years old.

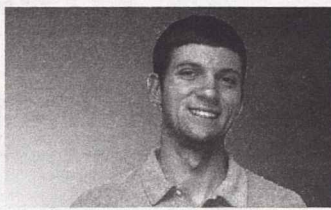
A band does not have to act their age. If they did, they would be stuck playing bridge in the public library. These men continue to make money and act the way a band should, regardless of their age. They gave a good show, proven by the attitude of the audience at the Super Bowl and the announcers.

I feel the Rolling Stones gave a much better show than any new artist, like Ashlee Simpson last year, could ever dream of giving. They were also not revealing their breasts like Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake in a previous Super Bowl show. The Stones' show should be used as a model to all new artists aspiring to perform at future Super Bowls.

Rachel Harrison
junior
biological sciences

COMMENTARY

America shows its greed



DAMON ANDREWS
Columnist

We all remember the tragic events that took place on September 11, 2001. We can all remember exactly where we were when the news was released, just as our parents can remember where they were when the news that John F. Kennedy had been shot and killed was made public. It's something that is burned in us forever. But, would you go as far as to think that some people would try and make personal millions off the tragedy? Well, think again.

Those Americans who lost a family member during the 9/11 tragedy are entitled to an average of \$1.185 million from the government, with a minimum of \$250,000, though as much as \$4.7 million has been awarded. Still, these close kin of those killed during the airplane strikes are complaining that the money for the death of their loved ones is just not enough. I'm not denying the horror or heartbreak that took place on 9/11, but for most people, they were merely in the wrong place at the wrong time and fell victim to uncontrollable cause.

Take now the payout to a family member of a soldier who is killed in combat — an initial check of \$6,000 (half of which is taxable), \$1,750 for burial costs, \$833 per month as a surviving spouse until you remarry, and \$211 per month for every child under 18, which comes to a halt once the child turns 18. Just to put things in perspective, a mother left with 12-year-old triplets who does not remarry for 10 years will only receive \$153,286 (and that's before taxes). That's not even 13 percent of the average payout for someone who lost a loved one during the 9/11 tragedy, yet the soldiers are putting their lives at risk every day to ensure our freedom. Does something seem wrong with this system?

Now to anger me even further was the fact that surviving family members of the Oklahoma City bombing have now created an organization petitioning for entitlements due to their losses. Are people really trying to profit off death? This disgusts me beyond belief. The new "craze" has also spread to families of those bombed in foreign embassies who are looking to receive considerable compensation. And now companies and industries as

far away as the west coast are descending like vultures, saying that the 9/11 strike has hurt their business and profits and they are asking for millions in compensation. The American people, though I do not like admitting it, are making our nation as a whole appear as a selfish and greedy country, full of people who will look anywhere for an easy dollar, including under the lid of a coffin. During my travels abroad, I have defended America beyond end — its policies and its people. It vexes me greatly that not only have a few United States citizens given all Americans a bad name, but that our credibility as a nation driven by morals is shattered through our voracity and materialism.

Now to add to my fury Congressmen must only serve one term in Congress to receive a pension of up to \$15,000 per month; however, people can serve as much as 20 years in the military and leave as an E-7, yet only receive \$1,000 per month pension. So, the very people who are sending our soldiers to fight in wars are receiving up to \$180,000 per year in pension whereas those military men and women who serve up to 20 years may only receive \$12,000.

For a nation founded on blood and sweat, it would appear that the blue collar worker is nearly expendable in this day and age. Both Congressmen and military servicemen are government employees, but it appears that the lives of men and women defending our country are worth far less than those of the men and women deciding their deployment dates. To the soldiers in Iraq today, I would feel insulted by those people who are seeking compensation for the 9/11 tragedy. The message being sent by those who are looking for entitlements is clear — unless someone is killed on American soil or an incident directly affects them, they have no interest or concern.

The emergence of these figures has not caused me to lose any faith in our nation or government. I still believe we live in the best country in the world, despite the few greedy people who tarnish the American name. It is, however, extremely disheartening to think that people are trying to profit off the death of our fellow countrymen in such a tragic incident. Moreover, it is nauseating to hear that people are trying to receive money for a bombing that happened more than a decade ago. Not only does this appear selfish but terribly shallow to think that a price tag could be put on the life of a loved one.

DAMON ANDREWS is a sophomore in mechanical engineering. E-mail comments to letters@TheTigerNews.com.

COMMENTARY

Violence is not the solution to Iranian crisis



BRANDON HATHAWAY
Columnist

It looks pretty bad right now. The Iranians are asking the International Atomic Energy Agency to remove seals and cameras from their nuclear facilities in response to the IAEA's decision to send Iran's case to the United Nations Security Council. That decision was made when Iran had removed the seals at one of its research facilities themselves. It gets a little confusing at this point, so I will do my best to make the ride smooth and fun, like a Lexus rather than a Jeep, which is bumpy and fun.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who is the President of Iran (but not the leader of the country — Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei gets the final say) has

vocally trumpeted Iran's intention to develop nuclear technology for electricity only, while simultaneously expressing his desire to "wipe Israel off the map." Naturally, this has gotten some folks a little antsy, especially when it's common knowledge in the Middle-East that the West is controlled by Zionists.

The Security Council has decided to wait until the first week of March to make any decision in the hopes that a diplomatic solution can be put together. So, lots of folks are predicting air strikes on various factories and reactors in Iran to disrupt the nuclear program by force. Unfortunately, there are a number of why that is not a good idea. In fact, the diplomatic antagonism in general isn't really the best way to approach this either. We're not dealing with the Soviets anymore. For all the trouble they caused, they were usually pretty good sports diplomatically.

The biggest thing to think about right now is that there is a lot of speculation on the subject. All we really know for sure is that Iran is performing nuclear

research; we (the American government) presume that since they are swimming in oil, the research is for a weapon. Given our recent track record on speculation, I'm a little skeptical. We are pretty sure we know where all their facilities are, but the Iranians say that they have kept their research hidden for almost twenty years before it became common knowledge four years ago. Maybe there's another building that we think is an International House of Falafel but is really a weapons lab. You can't be sure; anything could be going on on those IHoFs.

There is a lot of pent up aggression among Iranian young people. The word on the street is that living in a repressive theocratic regime kind of sucks, and that young Iranians would prefer to live in a more liberalized Iran. Our opposition to their nuclear program and threats of air strikes exacerbates their nationalism rather than their liberalism. Granted, nobody wants to see a nuclear armed Iran, but we don't want to redirect the anger of those young people at us instead of their leaders. We should be encouraging,

supporting and protecting those reform minded groups of students and young professionals, rather than going after the ruling class. It worked out pretty well for Reagan when he followed that strategy in Poland with Lech Walesa and Solidarity.

Ahmadinejad sounds awfully crazy, so trusting him with this technology seems like an unwise political move. However, it is not entirely clear how much power he actually has. He wants to expand atomic research, deny the Holocaust and destroy Israel. Khamenei isn't really muzzling him, but then again, as long as the young Iranians are saying "Let's build nuclear power!" instead of "Let's not be a theocracy anymore!" the Ayatollah will probably give Ahmadinejad a bit of leeway.

There are conflicting reports as to how long it will take Iran to develop a weapon. I have heard everywhere from just more than a year to around 10. Worrying about it later is usually the solution of choice for the American politician, so it's a little strange that this time we're seeing desire for action. With the propensity to overstate

threats that our intelligence services have demonstrated throughout their entire history, it might be a good idea to explore the other options in the short term to see where they get us.

There is also the unpredictable Israel angle. If Israel thinks that Iran is too close, it will bomb the reactors themselves. It did it to Iraq in 1981 when it bombed the Osirak reactor.

Mostly, American interests can be better served by downplaying the military options. Iran is clearly afraid of that eventuality, and with our actions in Iraq, it is already a credible threat. The primary objective is to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear arms; the second objective is to promote freedoms there. If we take advantage of the uniquely tenuous position their government is in right now by engaging them rather than alienating them, both of those goals could be realized without flying a single sortie.

BRANDON HATHAWAY is a graduate student in mechanical engineering. E-mail comments to letters@TheTigerNews.com.

COMMENTARY

Clean up smoking mess



LUCY BEAM HOFFMAN
Columnist

When I first came to Clemson University in the fall of 2004, I was awed at the sheer physical size. Having attended Greenville Tech for two years previously, I had spent most of my time in two buildings with a five minute walk from the parking lot. If I was feeling leisurely, I could stretch it into six or seven. I know that we aren't the largest school in the nation, but suddenly I had a subtle appreciation for smaller schools. In addition, my 45-minute commute didn't help. It was a semester of adjustments, but I did manage to adapt and recover from this first daunting impression of the campus.

My second impression was also not a good one. I need to say upfront that I have a great aversion to smoking. This comes from living with a father who had a strong addiction and his having a daughter who had a very queasy stomach. I learned to hate the habit early. I hated everything that was attached to it. I am leading up to the litter problem associated with smoking and the fact that I started noticing the "cigarette butt" issue on the Clemson campus. I began to detect little piles of cigarette butts in corners of stairs, piled around trash receptacles and on the bridge in front of Cooper Library. Suddenly it seemed that everywhere I looked, I saw cigarette butts. Because of my particular level of abhorrence when it comes to smoking, I was even more disgusted. (There is little that makes me sicker than to see young people dragging on a cigarette, possibly the greatest deterrent to a healthy body that exists in America today.) But I have come to peace with other people having the right to damage themselves if they so choose. What I have not come to peace with is having to put up with the habit by inhaling second-hand smoke (which I am happy to say is being restricted much better now) and having my environ-

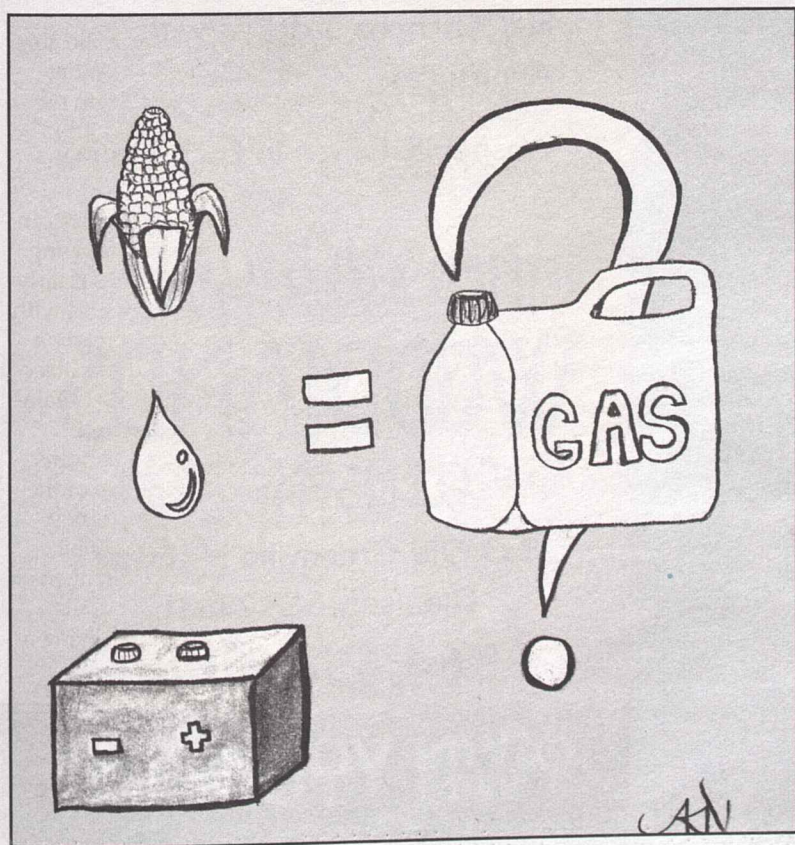
ment "sickened" with the related trash of the habit. With a minimal amount of research, this is what I found. "Cigarettes are the most littered item in America and the world. Cigarette filters are made of cellulose acetate tow, not cotton, and they can take decades to degrade [decades!]. Not only does cigarette litter ruin even the most picturesque setting, but the toxic residue in cigarette filters is damaging to the environment, and littered butts cause numerous fires every year, some of them fatal" (www.cigarettelitter.org). That did it for me.

So I did what I do — I wrote an e-mail. This one I sent to President Barker. It makes absolutely no sense to me to spend lots of money on creating a lovely campus and having it spoiled with litter. The e-mail got his attention. He forwarded the e-mail onto the powers that be, and a meeting was set up. From that meeting there is now an action committee to study the problem and make recommendations. I believe that when people visit Clemson, they should leave feeling impressed with the people, the infrastructure and the overall feeling of the campus. I don't want them going away thinking of the piles of cigarette butts they saw. I also don't want that impression in my memory. Perhaps I have been — spoiled I live five minutes from Furman, which is an incredibly beautiful and litter-controlled campus. I do understand that a smaller campus is easier to patrol, but I also believe that the attitude of pride should be within each person who attends any campus. Every college student needs to take pride in his or her campus, and take the personal responsibility of cleaning up after oneself.

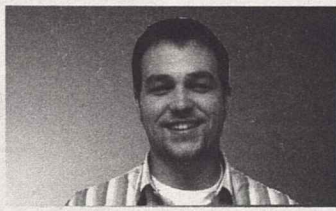
When the litter campaign gets in full swing, please participate. In the meantime, place your litter and your "butts" where they are supposed to go — in the trash. That doesn't mean beside the receptacle, along a walkway after taking a last drag or flicked behind a bush where you think no one can see. Believe me, we can see. If you can't or don't want to quit, simply clean up after yourself. Truly, it is about pride — in ourselves and in our campus.

LUCY BEAM HOFFMAN is a senior majoring in history. E-mail comments to letters@TheTigerNews.com.

CARTOONS



Cartoon controversy fueled by politics



BRIAN EYINK
Opinions Editor

As violent protests against a series of Danish cartoons sweep across the world's Muslim nations, one has to wonder how the situation grew so out of hand. Thousands of cartoons are published in newspapers and magazines each day, so how did these few provoke riots throughout the Middle East, let alone get noticed by anyone outside Denmark?

The original cartoons were published in September, and only in recent weeks have we seen an international backlash against them. The long delay between publication and response suggests that the protests did not grow out of reactions by readers of the newspaper in any part of the world. Instead, the cartoons were likely brought to key Middle Eastern cities by anti-Western groups and disseminated as a propaganda tool.

This scenario makes even more sense considering the response of many Muslim governments to the protests. Rioters have burned Danish flags in the streets, torched Danish embassies and consulates (and, for some reason, an Austrian embassy), and attacked, looted and burned Western businesses. These riots have gone largely unchecked by the local governments. Many European nations have even had to recall their diplomatic personnel because the host nations were providing inadequate security.

One would think that some of the world's most totalitarian governments — especially Syria and Iran — would be able to stop these riots immediately if they wanted to, but these protests serve two key purposes for the governing authorities. First, they provide an outlet for the pent-up anger of millions of young men with little prospect of eco-

nomics advancement or political freedom. If the people are able to express their anger toward a defamatory cartoon, maybe they won't channel it toward their own governments. Second, the controversial nature of the cartoons lets hostile Middle Eastern governments further stir up anti-Western sentiment. Syria and Iran are blaming the violence on the blasphemy of the West, but more moderate nations such as Jordan are calling for peaceful protests.

Islamic texts are interpreted to prohibit the depiction of prophets in an effort to prevent idol worship. However, this Islamic law by no means justifies violence or threats against the cartoon publishers. This same Islamic teaching would also seem to apply to depictions of Jesus, who is also an Islamic prophet, but images of Jesus have been tolerated for centuries.

Of course, there is a difference between a religious painting of Jesus and an offensive cartoon depicting Muhammad, but that still does not justify violence. The cartoon may be offensive to some, but others may see it as very relevant political commentary (In fact, some commentators have made the generalization that the protests just prove the point of the cartoons). Either way, the many individuals who are justifiably offended by the cartoon have numerous legal and economic remedies at their disposal.

These protests simply underscore the broad gap separating the West and much of the Islamic world. What Western society sees as a legal cartoon (albeit in poor taste), fundamental governments have turned into another propaganda tool in a smear campaign against the West. How else does one explain the convenient inability of these governments to control their protestors? How else does one explain how a protest against a Danish newspaper ends with the rioters shouting, "Death to America and the Zionists"?

BRIAN EYINK is a senior majoring in economics. E-mail comments to letters@TheTigerNews.com.

PAWS UP, PAWS DOWN

Due to overtime costs, some families of 9/11 victims will be unable to view the trial of Zacarias Moussaoui on closed circuit TV.

A Texas woman was arrested for assault for tapping a fellow moviegoer with her fingers and asking her to be quiet while in the theater.

A 30-foot-tall, three-ton climbing wall was stolen from a rec center. Stealing is wrong, but kudos to whoever pulled it off!

A Hooters restaurant in Waco, Texas, was blessed by a local Catholic Monsignor. At least it's not an orphanage!

An Indiana house that was wrongly valued at \$400 million sent a city into debt when the tax revenue failed to meet predictions.

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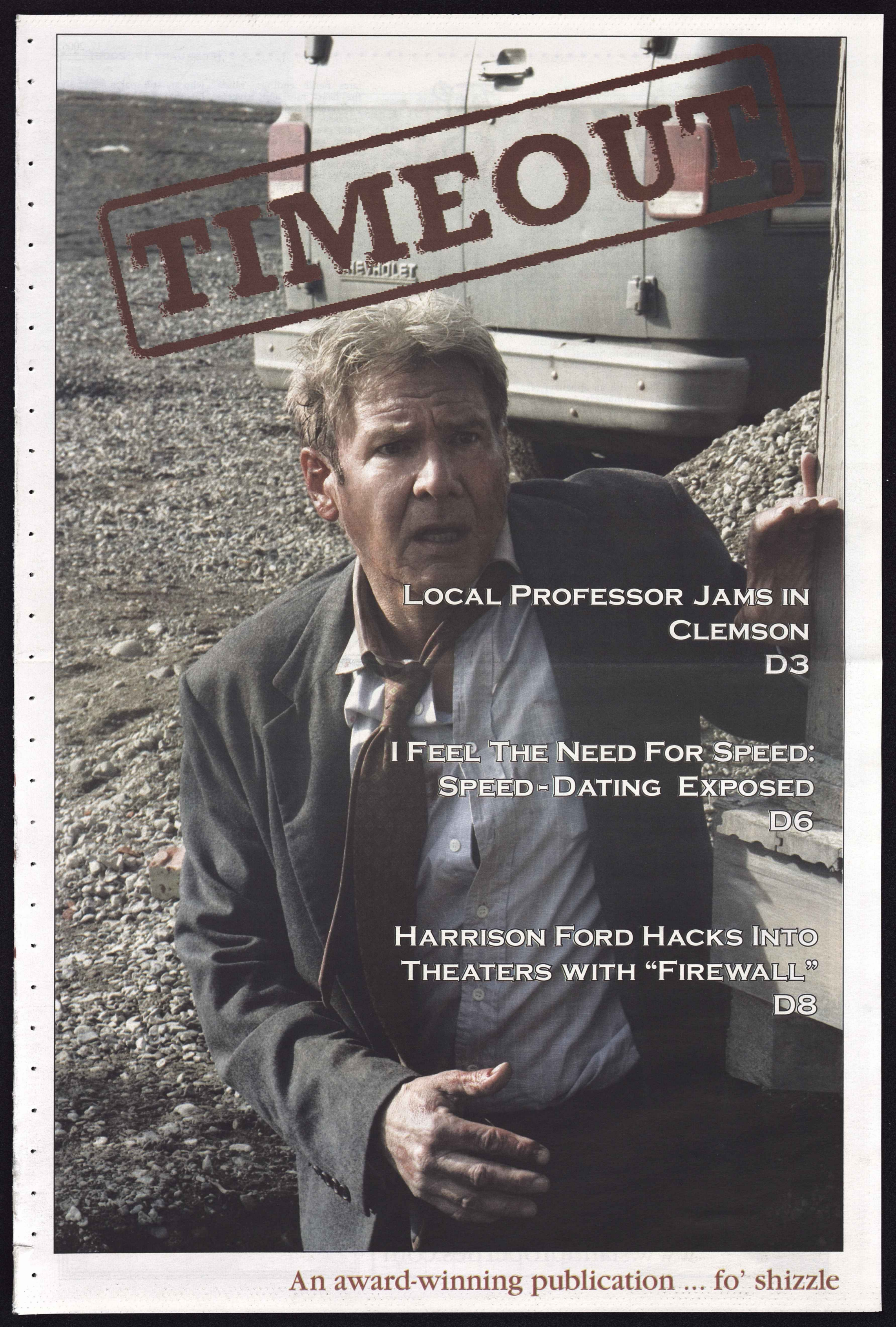
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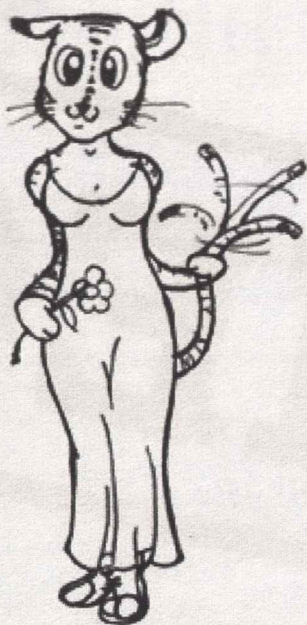
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SPEED-DATING EXPOSED
D6**

**HARRISON FORD HACKS INTO
THEATERS WITH "FIREWALL"
D8**

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ON THE PROWL

BY THE PINK PANTHER



In lieu of Valentine's Day, romance has been on most people's minds, whether it be planning the perfect date for your significant other to show just how much you care or even just finding someone attractive enough to take home from the bar (after you and your fellow single friends went out to drink away your loneliness in defiance of the overrated holiday).

Whatever your Valentine's story may be, chances are a huge number of you did not get laid on Valentine's Night, and that's sad — really. On a holiday when cards are covered in kisses and cupids, everyone should be celebrating with a little hanky-panky.

The good news is it isn't too late! And if you need a little help enticing that mysterious girl across the bar or the guy that sits across the aisle from you in lecture because a large amount of alcohol just won't do the trick, there's always the wondrous world of aphrodisiacs just waiting to be explored.

The use of aphrodisiacs won't just get your target in the mood for some lovin', they will also make you seem super-classy. When you Google "aphrodisiacs," you'll find a long list of sites advertising horny goat weed and \$25 male potency supplements.

Pulling those out on a

dinner date would not be so classy. No one wants to get down and dirty with someone that doubts his or her sexual performance so much that they have resorted to taking sketchy herbs bought from the Internet.

Instead, you can be sneaky and incorporate aphrodisiacs in your meal, and later, when the two of you are in the throes of passion, you can just smile to yourself about how your master plan had a master pay-off.

Start with an appetizer of oysters or mussels. According to legend, Casanova ate dozens of oysters every day; obviously he was doing something right. Supposedly, the old pimp even seduced a virgin by slipping her an oyster from his mouth to hers. If you're feeling very confident, go ahead and try the oyster exchange, but it's probably best to leave moves like that to Casanova. Whatever the legend may be, oysters and mussels actually contain a large amount of zinc which is used in the production of testosterone. With science behind you, nothing can go awry!

If you aren't a fan of mollusks and your parents give you a large allowance, try some caviar instead. Casanova also ate a lot this, too, and caviar has extremely high protein content to give you lots of energy to bump and grind all

night.

To go along with the main course, vegetables such as asparagus and cucumbers are considered to be erotically arousing. Perhaps it's because of their phallic shape, which can't help but put everyone's mind in the gutter. In addition, asparagus is a good source of vitamin E, which is considered to stimulate the sex hormone.

The Aztecs named the avocado "ahuacatl," or testicle, because of its shape, and virgin girls were made to stay indoors during the harvest. Maybe you should throw some avocados into the mix as well, and you could even try wooing the object of your desire with your knowledge on the vegetable. After all, it will give you an excuse to get testicles into the dinner time conversation.

Hot peppers are not only hot and spicy (precisely what sex should be), but they contain capsaicin, which stimu-

lates nerve endings, raises the heart rate and triggers pleasurable endorphins to be released. Eating these will be good practice for stimulating nerve endings and raising heart rates later in the night. Mmmm, eating your vegetables has never felt so good! Mom would be proud.

For dessert, try eating fruits such as peaches and bananas. The Chinese have for centuries sworn by the erotic effects of the peach, and the soft fuzz on a firm peach is just as enticing to the senses as its juices exploding in your mouth. No pun intended, people! But since your minds are all in the gutter, it should be easy for you to figure out how bananas became an aphrodisiac as well.

Last but not least, end the meal with some chocolate. Women have always known that chocolate is good for everything, and in this particular area, scientists concur. Whether it's chocolate cake, chocolate-covered strawberries and champagne or (if the oysters have already kicked in) dripping chocolate fondue on each other's bodies, chocolate is the most effective aphrodisiac around. This is because of its stimulant phenylethylamine, which creates a sense of well-being and excitement. On to the love-making!

So let's face it, not all of us were struck by Cupid's arrow in time to do Valentine's Day justice. There are those of us

who are still searching madly for that person to keep us warm at night, and there are those of us who probably screwed it all up with their significant other by planning a lame date or picking out an even lamer present.

Luckily for everyone, now there's something you can do about your little dry spell. Who needs Cupid, anyway, when you have a grocery list of aphrodisiacs? Whether they are magic or medicine, you won't care at the end of the night.

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Last Week's Crossword Solution

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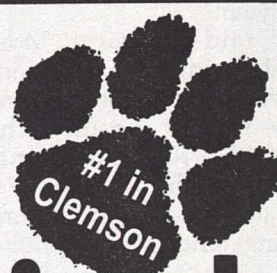
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Filmmakers release DVD early

ADAM STEINBERG
TimeOut Layout Editor

One of Hollywood's most respected filmmakers and the NBA's most prolific owner are teaming up to transform the current model of movie distribution.

Steven Soderbergh ("Traffic," "Erin Brockovich") and Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban, along with Todd Wagner, were the masterminds behind the plan to release Soderbergh's newest film "Bubble" in theaters and on pay-per-view on Jan. 27 and then on DVD four days later.

Unprecedented? You bet. Crazy? Only if making previously unimaginable profits is crazy.

"Bubble" is the first in a series of films that Soderbergh has agreed to make with 2929 Entertainment (operated by Cuban and Wagner — both former owners of Broadcast.com).

The film is a \$1.6-million experimental indie, the type of movie normally reserved for art-houses in New York City and Los Angeles. It's not exactly the type of film that attracts families and teenagers. Normally the film might run for a few weeks in theaters and then derive most of its profit from DVD rentals and sales, but what if there was a way to attract more people to pay and see "Bubble?"

Soderbergh, Cuban and Wagner just might have developed a model to squeeze even more money out of an almost dry industry. Instead of splitting the revenues with movie theaters (theaters usually take

a cut of about 50 percent), they have found a way to secure even more of the revenues.

This has been done by 2929 Entertainment gathering its own cinematic conglomerate (the company owns Landmark Theaters and HDNet). Now, instead of sharing revenues with theater chains, 2929 Entertainment gets to keep even more of the revenue. But the big money is in the DVD distribution.

Theater owners have long been terrified of the day when films will be released simultaneously in theaters and on DVD. Why are they so frightened when movie-going is such an American tradition? The daunting reality is that many people would rather sit in their leather recliners and watch "King Kong" on their flat screen with surround sound than combat the lines of teenagers and children at a multiplex.

Additionally, in today's ever-efficient society, seeing a movie has become more expensive.

The three hours spent traveling to and from the theater and the time spent watching the movie have an opportunity cost, whether it is spending better time with family or refining one's portfolio.

Complementing a theatrical release with a simultaneous DVD release provides an opportunity to secure greater revenues and profits, especially for low-budget films that normally do not find a home in national theater chains.

Theater owners know this, and they know 2929 Entertainment's model is a threat.

"The reality is, we've seen the impact that DVD release had on grosses, and there wasn't a lot of business left," Greg Laemmle, owner of Laemmle Theatres said.

Quite simply, DVDs are becoming an increasingly less-costly and quality substitute for the big-screen.

So tremendous is 2929 Entertainment's model, some theater chains are actually refusing to show "Bubble." Hoping to persuade the theaters into showing the film, Cuban and Wagner have said they will set aside 1 percent of profits from DVD sales to be distributed to the theater owners. Cuban and Wagner claim that theater owners can make more money this way. The math doesn't exactly add up, but if Cuban and Wagner can get their film shown in more theaters, good for them. One concession that Cuban and Wagner are making is by not releasing "Bubble" on DVD until the Tuesday after the theatrical release. So "Bubble's" most fervent fans that wish to see the film the day it is released will not be able to run to Blockbuster and rent the DVD.

It's doubtful that DVDs will ever fully supplant theaters in the near future — people simply love going to the theater. It's also doubtful that Cuban and Wagner are the first people to identify this more profitable model. They are just the first to challenge film distribution traditions.

Maybe these billionaires have nothing to lose, and maybe the experiment will prove to be a failure. Just don't be surprised if Cuban and Wagner are laughing all the way to the bank.

Found Sound: My Bloody Valentine

TYLER MILLS
Art Director

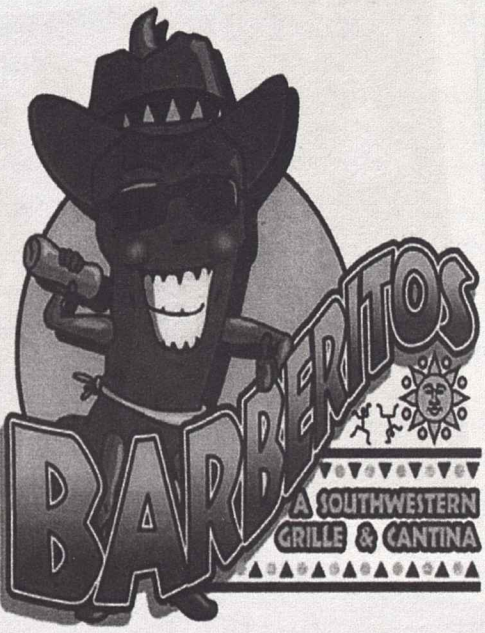
In my last article of my weekly column The Found Sound, I made it abundantly clear that I do not cater to simpletons. If your pre-Cenozoic mind fails to grasp the divine nectar that spews from my mouth, then perhaps you should choose another hobby more suited to your level of intellect, something like a rousing game of Connect Four. If, however, you have the desire to achieve new heights of greatness in your music collection through my guidance, read on. I may not be the Son of Man (simply because if I were, all of you would have better taste), but I have been known to work a few miracles in my time.

This week, I've decided to expatiate on a seminal post-rock band by the name of My Bloody Valentine in honor of Tuesday's holiday. Call me tendentious, but I am usually (or always) right when it comes to issues of music, so take it to heart when I declare My Bloody Valentine to be perhaps the greatest band of the 90s. Named after a low-grade Canadian horror flick of the same name (a film not nearly as frightening as Sly Stone at this year's Grammy Awards), these four Dubliners pioneered a genre dubbed "shoegaze," a blend of noise-drenched feedback and shimmering pop melodies that expanded on noise-rock bands of yesteryear like the Velvet Underground and the Jesus & Mary Chain. While grunge ran its course in the United States after the release of Nirvana's "Nevermind," the Brits were blessed with about two years of the dream pop splendor

known as shoegaze. My Bloody Valentine crafted their signature sound by creating collages of sound by combining a disparate mélange of studio elements such as layered guitars, an oneiric mist of ethereal vocals, orotund feedback and distortion.

Kevin Shields, the mastermind behind the band, literally labored three solid years on the band's masterpiece, "Loveless," a literal sine qua non for any true music collector that nearly bankrupted its label Creation Records. The sheer brilliance of "Loveless" has since scared Shields from releasing a follow-up ever since its release back in 1991. "Soon," the standout track from "Loveless," even received some high praise from the likes of Brian Eno, who described the track as "setting a new standard for pop music." And if that means nothing to you, then get up, throw all of your CDs out of the window.

As much as I'd like to resort to my sesquipedalian nature to further describe the band, I must keep my recondite vocabulary to a minimum in order to get my message across to you troglodytes reading this article. I recommend that beginners start with "Glider," an EP that came out right before "Loveless" with a more reasonable price tag; however, nothing comes even remotely close to "Loveless." End your case of xenophobia now and dive headfirst into some of the most enchanting music you've ever listened to. Not everyone can have the gift of Midas-touched ears, but with my help, you can all have a collection of gold so impressive that even Hernán Cortés would be content.



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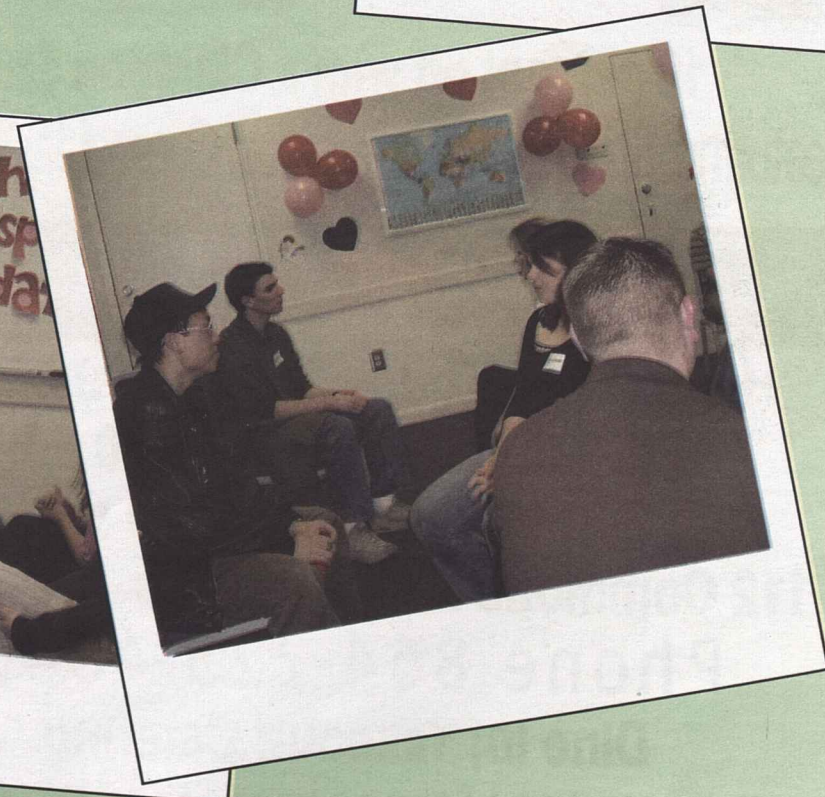
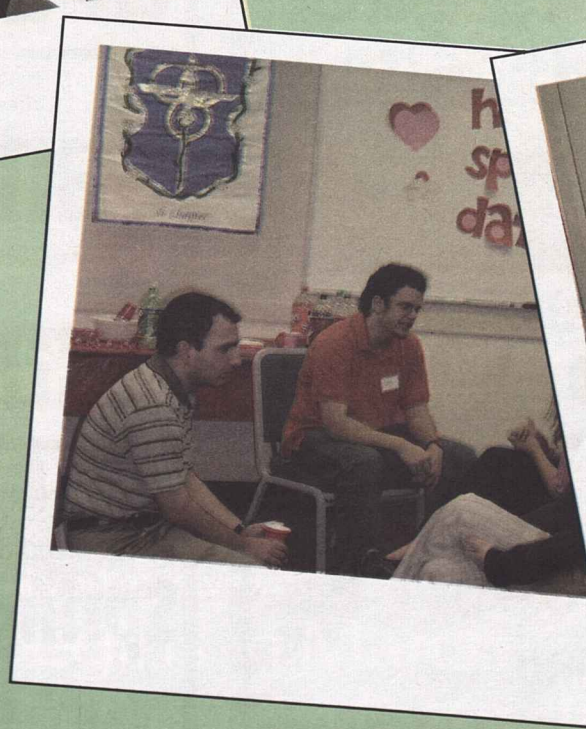
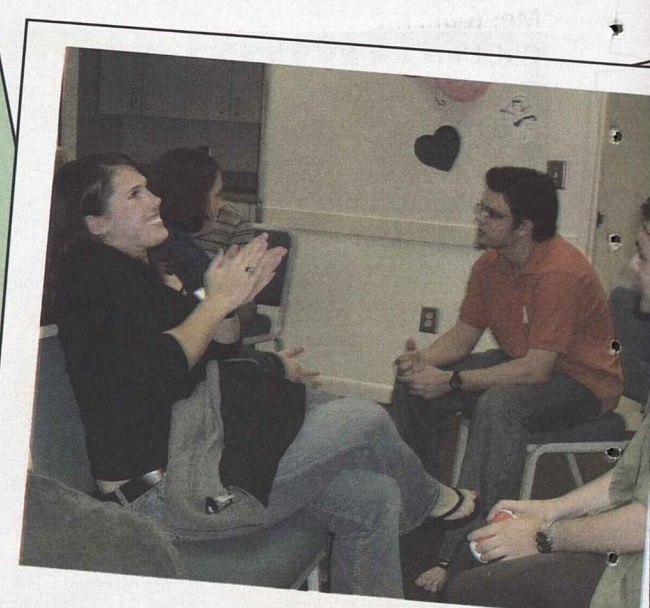
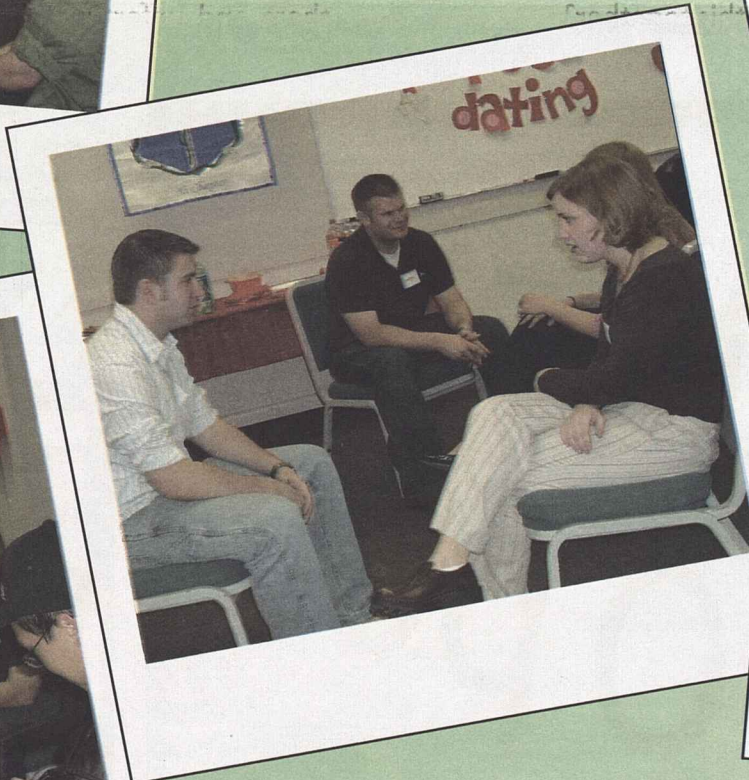
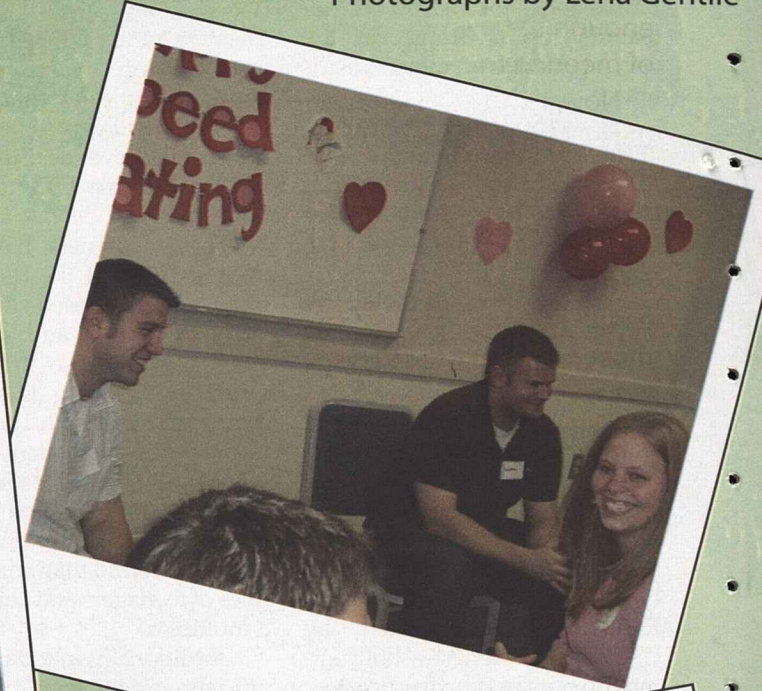
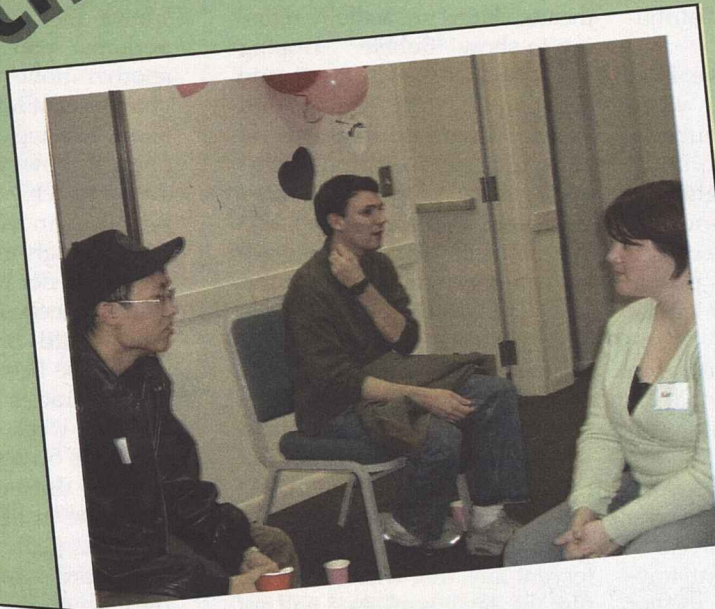
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Speed Dating: Cruise Control

By Michael Hunley
Graphics by Lauren Epps
Photographs by Lena Gentile



Last Friday, the Alpha Omega Epsilon engineering sorority sponsored their very first Speed-Dating program. I was lucky enough to cover the event just in time for Valentine's Day, in hopes of meeting my long-lost boo.

Now, I know what you're thinking: Me? Need help getting a date? Well, behind my tough, manly demeanor hides the personality of a very insecure and frightened puppy.

So I was very excited to have signed up for the event; it's not always easy for me to meet new people (my mom tells me it's because everyone is intimidated by my pale complexion and Urkel-esque appearance ... and I believe her), so this seemed like the most perfect opportunity for me.

I was quite nervous as I got ready that night; the only times that I put effort into "pretty-ing" myself up are Christmas and my mother's birthday (which are, thankfully, during the same week). So I showered vigorously, shaved methodically and meticulously and quickly plucked my faint, if somewhat noticeable uni-brow.

Also, I wasn't sure what to expect that night. The only knowledge of speed-dating I had was from "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" and a very funny episode of "Monk." I was unsure of whom I would meet and how the dates would go or even if I'd make a fool of myself (which I do quite often).

The structure of the program was simple: there were seven girls and seven guys, and everyone had a little "date" that lasted five minutes. All the participants were seated in a circle of chairs, and after each five minutes, the guys would stand up and move on to the next girl, so that everyone gets a little flavor of the other person. Brief and somewhat intimidating? Sure. A lot of fun? Heck to the yes!

So as not to bore you all with each little detail, here are some highlights of my evening of speed-dating:

I did make a fool of myself, but not as often as I thought I would. I have a tendency to say things without processing them in my mind first, so I end up saying some uber-sketchy things. Take note of this little conversation I had with one of my dates:

Me: So, are you part of the sorority that put this together?

Girl: No, I'm not.

Me: Yeah, me neither.

Girl: Um ... yeah.

Yes, I know. Lame. But, for the most part, I was able to stay calm and have nice, comprehensible conversations with most everyone.

As a self-proclaimed TV junkie, I could not help thinking of all my favorite TV dating shows throughout the night. My current favorite is MTV's "Next," which is perhaps the most evil and deliciously addictive show on TV right now. For those of you unfamiliar with this show, it involves several guys or girls stuck in a van, each picked to go on a date with sleaziest and most shallow person of the face of the earth. The best moments, however, are when the contestants talk to the camera and give their thoughts and

feelings.

After each of my dates, I imagined what my commentary would be if we were actually on a show like "Next." My imagined comments ranged from "I think we have a lot in common, you know, like, we both think Daniel Hall smells like pee. Y'all, we just clicked!" to "I don't think she really liked me. Well, I think it's because she can't handle this bu-dunk-a-dunk!"

I must confess that things did not go smoothly with all the ladies. The five minutes allocated for each date sometimes seemed to drag on longer than the Special Extended DVD editions of "The Lord of the Rings." Not that the girls weren't nice or anything; it was just that it was obvious that there wasn't that special spark between us. There were more awkward silences than my family's Thanksgiving dinner. And when I say awkward, I mean so awkward and so silent that I began to count all the hairs on my left hand (there are 27).

My biggest concern was in coming up with hip, funny and thought-provoking questions for each date. In my journalism classes, we're taught to use questions that are the most appropriate for the occasion and which can illicit the best answers. I felt that this could also work in the wonderful world of speed-dating, so I was hard at work at coming up with answers that were a bit more emotionally stimulating than "What chu goin' do with all that junk in your trunk?"

Eventually, I decided not to go with overly intellectual inquiries into her personal theories on quantum physics, but I went with more simple, thoughtful questions, like "What's your major" or "Who's your favorite Backstreet Boy?" Sure, it kind of got dull saying that I was an English major over and over again, but I played it safe and had a nice time with a lot of people.

Overall, it was a great time, and I recommend just about everyone put their ego aside and try it at least once. It seemed that the program had a strong turnout, so hopefully Alpha Omega Epsilon will do this again.

And I'm sure everyone's wondering if I met the love o' my life there, and, unfortunately, I did not find a love connection. But whatever! They don't know what they're missing!



"Gromit" DVD not cursed



TYLER MILLS
Art Director

Thanks to studios like Pixar and Dreamworks, moviegoers in recent years have seen a resurgence in the number of high-quality animation films aimed at a young audience but universal enough to be appreciated by children and adults of all ages. "Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit," the latest feature length film from the makers of the Academy Award-winning Wallace & Gromit shorts, has just been released on DVD and continues to live up to the high bar set by other recent animated works like "The Incredibles," "Monsters, Inc.," "Shrek" and "Finding Nemo."

The story is a simple one. Wallace and his dog Gromit are a pair of humane pest controllers

called Anti-Pesto who specialize in the security of the surrounding neighborhood gardens. With the annual town giant vegetable growing competition only days away, the scatterbrained inventor Wallace and his crafty canine chum keep busy by ridding the townspeople of pesky rabbits. Everything seems to be going along fine until a giant monster rabbit begins coming out at night and terrorizing the local gardens. It all seems familiar plot-wise, but you are likely find any real reason to complain.

The animation style hasn't changed much from the "Wallace & Gromit" shorts of years past, the makers of which also having created the equally adorable claymation feature "Chicken Run" back in 2000 (which featured the voice talents of Mel Gibson). Everything looks a little cleaner, but for the most part, not much else has changed from the shorts. Peter Sallis continues to provide the voice for Wallace, while more well-known talents like Ralph Fiennes and Helena Bonham Carter supply the voices of Victor Quartermaine and Lady

Tottington, respectively. While every character gets its fair share of laughs, the real humor in the film comes from the dog Gromit. While he has no spoken lines in the entire film, his reaction shots to the events that unfold onscreen are priceless. The looks he shoots at Wallace's zany antics are clean, everyday comedy at its finest.

One thing that works in favor of "Wallace & Gromit" is its inherent charm. There's a reason why it has the highest overall freshness rating of last year on Rotten Tomatoes, and that's because you'd really have to make a special effort not to enjoy this movie. Practically every critic had something positive to say about it, and those who didn't were probably robbed of a childhood. That's not to say that this is the best movie of the year; on the contrary, the subject matter seems rather overextended for a film even as short as the 85 minutes in "Wallace & Gromit." That being said, though, you're not likely to find a movie as quirky and cute as this. It brings out the child in all of us.

"Firewall" copies classic film plots



WILL SIEVERDES
Staff Writer

Harrison Ford was once the top action hero in Hollywood, portraying famous characters such as Han Solo from "Star Wars," Indiana Jones from the "Indiana Jones" series and, most recently, Jack Ryan in the Tom Clancy political thrillers. Other than these famous franchises, he's done a good bit of action-related roles, most notably "The Fugitive" and "Air Force One." He's been less prolific in recent years, but his latest release, "Firewall," hopes to show that the aged actor still has it.

Ford plays Jack Stanfield, an executive at a bank that is about to be merged with another

er against his wishes. He is a happy family man and owns a nice, lakeside home. There is a lot of realistic conversing in the beginning to set up the relationships of the characters, with children bickering and adults joking. The family dynamic seems very accurate.

At a dinner meeting after work, Jack is introduced to Bill Cox (played by Paul Bettany), who wastes no time forcing Jack to drive home, where he sees that Cox's gang has taken over the house, setting up spy cameras and rounding up Jack's family.

At first we're not sure what the villains want. Some of them, especially Cox, are menacing, but others are somewhat sympathetic. Almost all of them are bumbling. It's apparent they haven't tried something like this before. We find out later that they plan to use Jack to steal millions of dollars from his own bank and then frame him to make it seem like the merger was the reason he did it. Their plan seems good, but they didn't count on the Stanfields causing problems, which the kidnappers try to amend through increasingly vicious acts of violence.

"Firewall" is by no means Ford's best movie. It seems like a rehash of "Patriot Games" or "Air Force One," only this time Ford is a middle-aged computer geek. There are several comedic moments where he attempts to do some heroic stunts, but only falls on his face. A far cry from the Indiana Jones of previous films, Ford is obviously trying to make himself look like a realistic, everyday man. For the most part it works, but there is one scene near the end that defies logic. If you see it, you'll know what I mean.

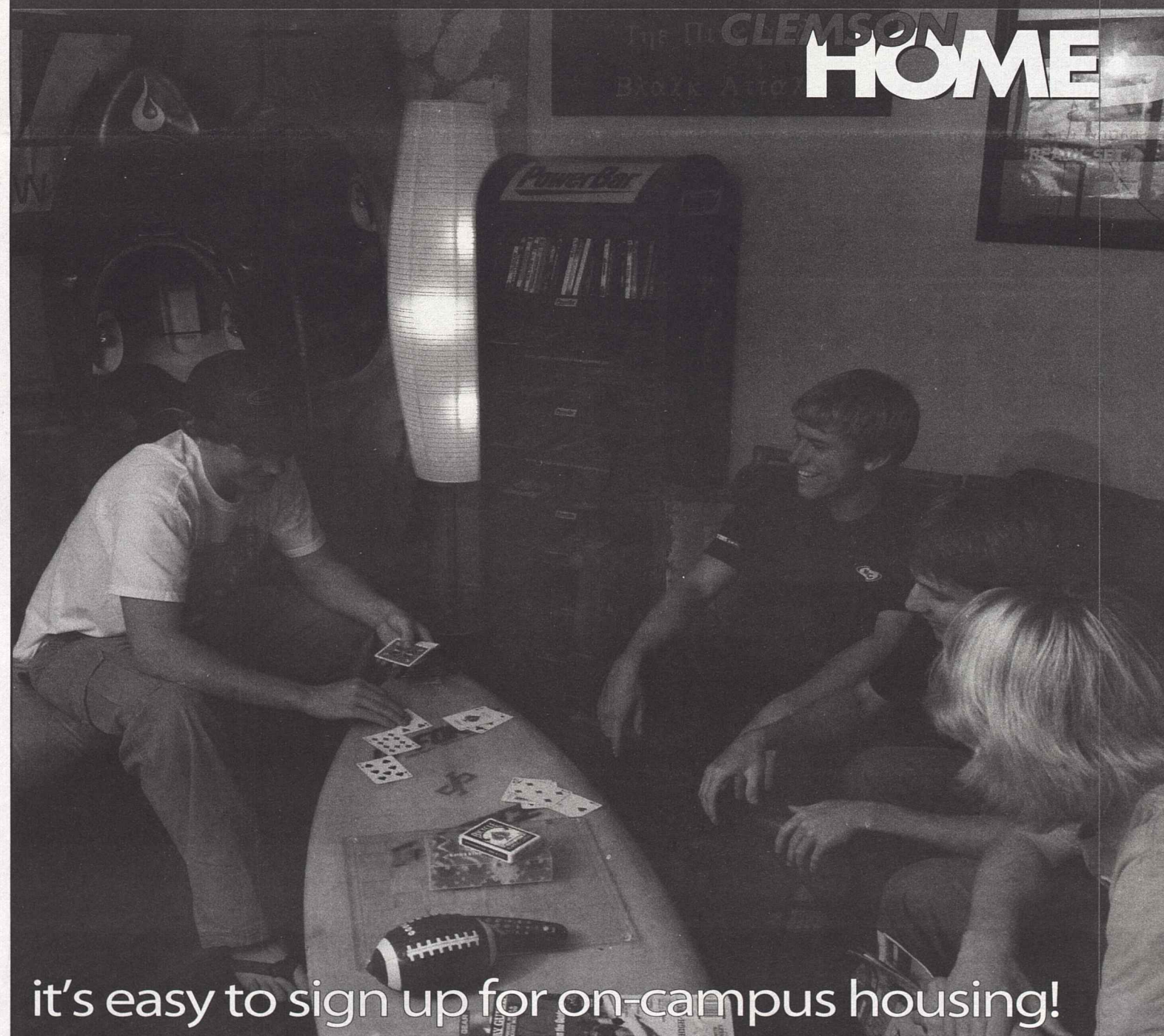
Paul Bettany is the reason to see this movie. His portrayal of the vicious Bill Cox is icy, menacing and manipulative. There are times when he seems to be developing friendly relations with the family, but in reality he's only looking out for himself. Even some of his own men aren't safe from his determination to get his money. I never thought Bettany could play a villain like this, but he does a good job making you fear and hate him.

"Firewall" is worth seeing. The situation is fairly believable, the acting is better than you'd expect and the plot has enough double crosses and exciting escape situations to sustain interest. One thing I felt about "Firewall" is that it is unrelentingly intense. After a slow opening, it keeps you constantly on edge at a consistent pace.

Another interesting thing about the film is that it relies to a great extent on technology. Dell computers, cell phones and iPods all play key roles in the bank heist. This is a bank robbery movie with a definite technological edge, as the film's computer-termed title indicates.

If you want to see a good thriller or you're interested in seeing if Harrison Ford is still capable of solid action films, then "Firewall" is for you.

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Film Snob: Foreign film proves classic

CHRIS JAYNES
Staff Writer

At the Venice Film festival in 1951 there was a surprise entry that took home the Grand Prize. Also that year, the same film was given an honorary Oscar, which pioneered the way to the Best Foreign Film category (it became a real category in 1956). Akira Kurosawa's "Rashomon" was an international success. Kurosawa introduced the world to the Japanese style of film and opened the West to a new kind of storytelling.

"Rashomon" is a must-see for any aspiring film snob to watch. Like so many other films of its time, "Rashomon" was completely revolutionary in its storytelling and cinematography. We have become complacent with lack of real plot in today's special effects-driven movies. Plots these days are lacking and do not inspire much thought from audiences. "Rashomon" is not only very visually pleasing, but it has compelling and complex plots.

The opening of the movie is set at the Rashomon Gate outside the Japanese city of Kyoto. As the camera pans through the rain, we are introduced to Woodcutter and the Priest. They are not given names directly; we only know them by their job. Soon, the two are joined by a Commoner who is seeking shelter from the rain. The Woodcutter keeps saying that he just doesn't understand. Over and over, he says this. What he doesn't understand is the strange story he just witnessed. The Priest and the Woodcutter have just returned from a trial of the famed bandit Tajomaru. The trial was to determine if Tajomaru is guilty of murdering a merchant and raping his wife. The Woodcutter tells the Commoner what he saw as he was walking through the woods. As the Woodcutter is telling his story, we are taken visually to the story as if we are just witnessing the scene.

After the Woodcutter's retelling of the events, the Priest tells what he saw as he walked along the road. Neither of their accounts show what actually happens between Tajomaru and the Merchant. To see what happens, or what didn't happen, Kurosawa takes the audience to the trial. The shot of this is from the point-of-view of the judge and the characters make their cases to us (as the judge). All we see are testimonies, nothing else.

In the courtroom setting, we are introduced to Tajomaru, who by all interpretation is insane. Laughing with the stereotypical Japanese laugh, he moves around like an animal. He suddenly calms down and tells us what

happened from his viewpoint. He tells a convincing story where he was forced into the situation but still acted nobly. We might have believed him until the Wife gives her account of what happened in the woods.

The Wife's story shares a lot of the same details that Tajomaru's story had but differs on some key points. For instance she may have killed her Husband. Once again, in the Wife's story, she was also forced to act, and her Husband shamed her into it. However, she blacked out and cannot remember what happened. Who do we believe at this point?

The Commoner, hearing these stories for the first time, is just as confused. Noticing this, the Woodcutter tells him that maybe the testimony of the Merchant is only going to make him more confused. The testimony of the Merchant? Wait, wasn't he dead? Well, he is, but they are able to communicate with him through a Psychic. The Medium plays the part of the Merchant, and she acts as though the Merchant is really using her body to communicate with us.

Kurosawa shows us the same scene of this murder/rape (the worst we see is a kiss) five times. It can't really be called the same scene, though, because it is different in every account. Each time the story is different, reflecting the characters personality and position. Everyone who told their story had relative truth to it. It was their reality that the characters were sharing with us, so who's to say it is wrong? Whose reality is real? We know everyone was at the scene, but why are there different accounts? We never find out what really happened, which is a little hard to accept. Kurosawa deliberately leaves loose ends dangling in front of the audience at the end. With all the "CSI" and "Law and Order" shows out there, most viewers expect to know who the bad guy is at the end. Kurosawa never shows the real scene, and we are forced to live it through accounts from different people and come to our own conclusion.

As thematic as the movie is, it is just as visual. Being a Japanese film, there are several options of viewing the film with original dialogue, original dialogue with captions and with American voiceovers.

If you are a true film buff, you should select the option with subtitles. Or you could just mute the sound entirely. Sounds are important in the film, but the way that Kurosawa shot the film makes it work as a silent film. If you try and follow the dialogue, you are going to fall into the endless loops of the debate of relative reality, but if you trust Kurosawa to guide you through this complex film, you will stand a better chance of understanding it.

Be sure to watch a particularly revolutionary scene when the Woodcutter enters the woods. The scene is still, over a half a century later, amazing. The editing makes it feel like it's one continuous shot (it isn't), and the camera at one point is actually pointed at the sun.

"Rashomon" is brilliant. There are not enough words to describe how great this film is. It will leave you stunned visually and also leave you with a lot of questions to ponder about your own reality.

"Destination" sequel bombs



BRAD SMALLING
Staff Writer

First Death came for C-quality actors. Then it came for the D-quality backup squad. But now, it has come for the post-pubescent no-names contriving their way through an hour and a half of pure ridiculousness. In "Final Destination 3," the 20-something-year-old "actors" portray high school seniors treating death as if it was the equivalent of getting detention. Sound familiar? It probably does. The first two "Final Destination" installments followed the same basic format. In fact, the story has hardly changed between the sequels.

The original "Final Destination" established the essential rules of death, which the third one follows startlingly close. By that I mean, the storyline is almost identical. In the original, a high school kid with a premonition keeps seven of his friends from boarding a plane he feared would explode. Lo and behold, it did. Death, being either displeased that it was cheated from a septuplet of bodies or just for pure amusement, proceeds to claim the lives of the seven survivors through various "natural," yet unusual deaths. The kicker is that the protagonist figures out Death's design: It comes for each person in the order they would have died if they were still on the plane. By saving Death's next victim, the

villainous yet non-corporal presence skips to the next person in line, thus preventing the rescued characters departure from the movie.

If you will, imagine the plane is now a rollercoaster, and you have "Final Destination 3." The differences between the two movies are pretty much limited to the vehicle of death, and of course, the fact that in "Final Destination 3," the characters only have to look on the Internet and find details about the first movie to figure out Death's design. So with the level of suspense completely eradicated from not having to figure anything out, the movie relies on gruesome deaths and sexy cast members to keep audiences attentive. Now, I like some good ole violence and attractive movie stars in my horror films just as much as the next guy, but I'm afraid to say this movie falls short even in these categories.

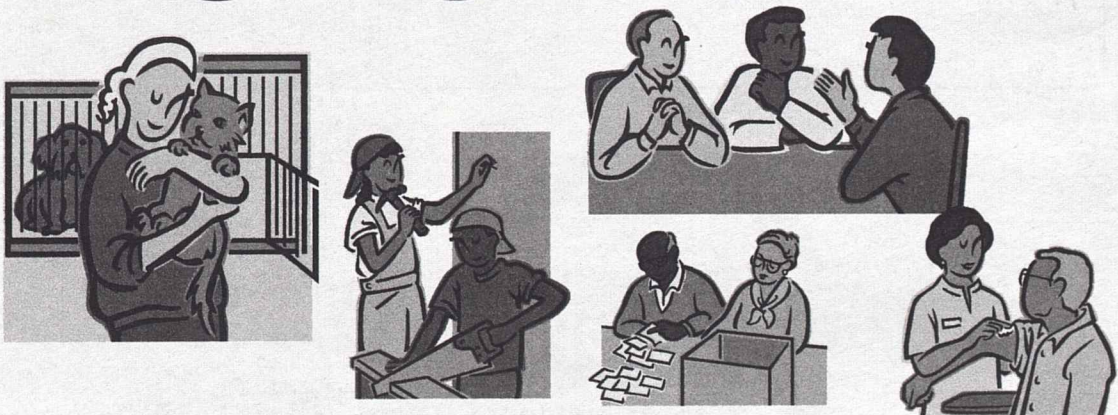
The movie does have some redeeming qualities which includes cool camera angles and special effects that go on just during the beginning credits, a funny punch line about Benjamin Franklin (no joke) that pops up an hour into the movie and a couple of really disturbing death scenes that even made me cringe. Conversely, the shortcomings throughout the movie are too numerous to count. Whether it is the huge, red, mechanical Satan telling everyone they are going to die before they get on the killer rollercoaster or the overly dramatic random breezes that mess up the characters finely parted hair every time someone is about to die, the movie oozes a feeling

of desperation. The "actors" are desperate for work, the producers are desperate for ticket sales and the audience is desperate for two words: The End.

Sadly, the end seems to never show up. The same goes for the police that I'm sure an urban city such as, well, wherever the film is supposed to take place must have. On more than one occasion, a vicious death claims the life of a minor character and the "heroes" simply walk away with long-winded dialogue that could have been easily summed up by saying, "Well, that sucked." Speaking of the movie's heroic twosome, a girl (as opposed to a guy in the original movie — way to shake it up, writers!) and her best friend's boyfriend are the only ones who worry enough to try and stop Death's cycle of revenge. The problem with this is that the boyfriend is portrayed to be arrogant and misogynistic throughout the first 30 minutes of the movie. Halfway into the story, he seems to be the nice, caring guy that any 18-year-old girl would love to have saving the world (or just some high school buddies) by her side.

A twist ending, which was not unlike the first movie's ending, made for a decent conclusion to the movie. However, the hour and 15 minutes beforehand could not bring me any justification to place the movie higher into the ranks of "Texas Chainsaw Massacre," "Saw" or "Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" (its scary, trust me). So I leave you with this: Scary movies are only as good as the villain, and as for "Final Destination 3," strong winds and flickering lights just don't cut it.

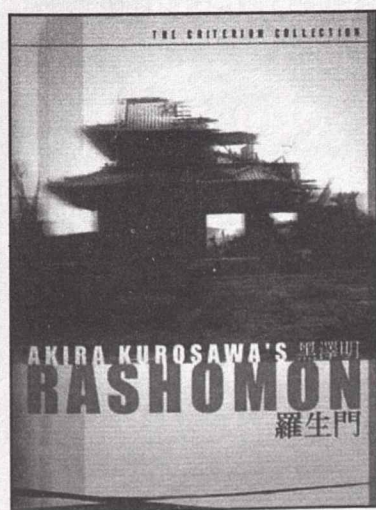
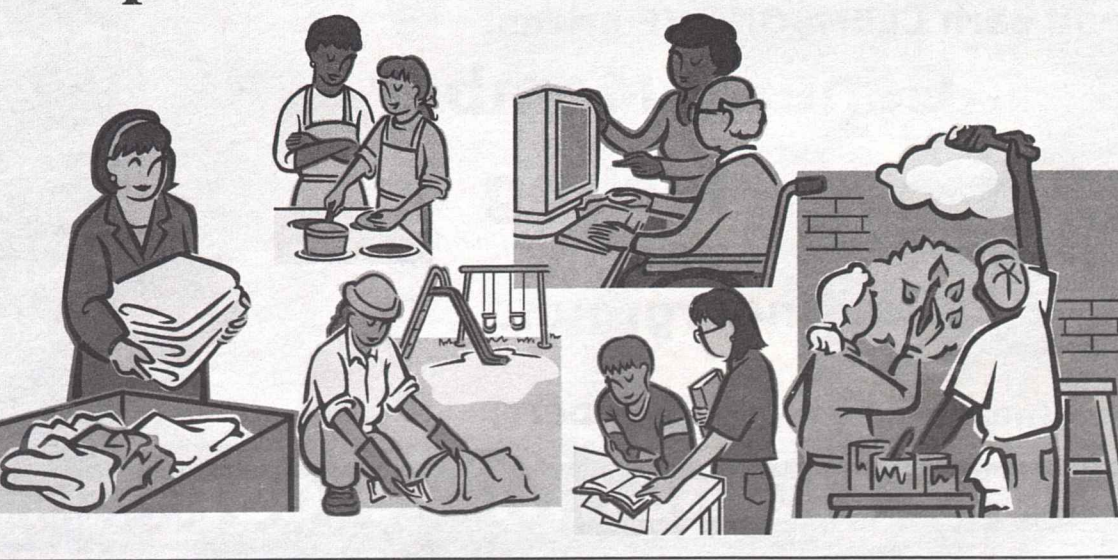
VOLUNTEER



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Petrucci amazes with guitar



BRETT ELLIS
Staff Writer

It is difficult to describe John Petrucci's album adequately. It's not enough to say that Petrucci is merely an accomplished guitarist, for he is far more than that. The melodies he conjures on this album don't feel like a bunch of notes strung together, they feel like brush strokes on a canvas.

A painted masterpiece is what comes to mind when I think of "Suspended Animation."

Comparing Petrucci with a guitar to Michelangelo with a paint brush/chisel is the only way to convey his talent to someone who has never heard him play before.



John Petrucci, guitarist and founding member of the progressive metal super groups Dream Theater and Liquid Tension Experiment, is a world-renown virtuoso guitarist. "Suspended Animation" is his first solo effort, and it doesn't disappoint for a second.

It's entirely instrumental, with the shortest song clocking in at just under five minutes, with the longest being close to 12 minutes. Petrucci uses what sets him apart from other virtuosos to his advantage on this album; he creates beautiful melodies and harmony instead of long-winded shredding (Malmsteen, I'm pointing in your direction). The melodies of "Suspended Animation" are so powerful and memorable that you'll wonder how a man with a guitar came up with them and not a professional symphony. This is why the songs never get tiresome or feel as though they drag on unnecessarily long.

The variance of style on this album is astounding. There are progressive metal tracks like "Jaws of Life," "Tunnel Vision," "Damage Control" and "Animate-Inanimate," which feature Petrucci's flawless chops, his epic, sweeping melodies and complex rhythm structure.

However, even though these songs fall under the umbrella of progressive metal, don't let that fool you into thinking they're four similar songs. Petrucci's playing is

nearly impossible to confine to genre, so I say they're all progressive metal very loosely. They all share commonalities, but their melodies and structures are intensely unique.

Also on the album are "Wishful Thinking" and "Lost Without You," two songs that feel like ballads from the '80s but without the cheesy and embarrassing glam rock behind them. They aren't as fast as or as heavy as the aforementioned tracks, but they lucidly showcase Petrucci's ability to play different genres.

My favorite track by far is "Glasgow Kiss." It's a blending of Scottish rhythm and Petrucci's own progressive styling into one of the most unique songs I've ever heard.

It has one of the best solos I've ever heard too, quite possibly in my top five all-time favorite solos. I believe "Glasgow Kiss" is the best song Petrucci has ever written. You have to hear it for yourself to truly understand, but I think you'll agree with me.

This album is available through Petrucci's Web site, www.johnpetrucci.com.

I suggest ordering it if you're a fan of quality music that has the ability to transcend time and genre tastes because this album is honestly a landmark in the world of music.

I'm hard pressed to think of another album of the last 10 years as consistently good as this one.

"Kingdom" series entertains, falters



ADAM GRIFFIS
Staff Writer

Bernard Cornwell is a historical fiction writer whose major claim to fame is the Richard Sharpe series. The titular character, Sharpe, is an officer in a rifle regiment in the English army fighting against Napoleon.

It was a series that started out very strong but petered out as Sharpe began to appear at the most unlikely of conflicts in the Napoleonic Wars (the escape from Elba, the Battle of Trafalgar, etc.). Cornwell has finally granted Sharpe silence and has moved on to writing a few new series about the American Civil War, the Crusades and the unification of England under Alfred the Great.

"The Last Kingdom" follows the story of a minor earl who ends up playing a major role in the expulsion of the Danes from England and in the unification of England under Alfred the Great.

The book is entertaining and illustrates the major strengths and weaknesses of the Danes and English but fails

in that it makes some weird stylistic decisions and drags at certain points in the narrative.

The best thing about "The Last Kingdom" is that it manages to portray the invading Norsemen as the violent savages that they were but still makes some of them sympathetic. It is through this sympathetic light that one gets to see the strengths of the Norsemen in a way that would not be possible if viewing them just as an unstoppable horde sweeping and murdering as they went.

Conversely, the Englishmen who seem weak and undisciplined while viewing the conflict from the perspective of the Norsemen will seem intelligent and honorable when the story switches to the English perspective.

Where the story fails, however, is in the chronicle style it adopts from time to time. It fits, considering the early medieval setting, but it simply isn't entertaining to read "and then Sven, son of Sven, brother of Igrid and father of Ubba brought 300 men on 50 longboats," ad infinitum. Also, for some reason, the narrator refers to events that are about to happen at several points, ruining points that would otherwise hold suspense.

It's a strange affectation, and one Cornwell would be better off to lose.

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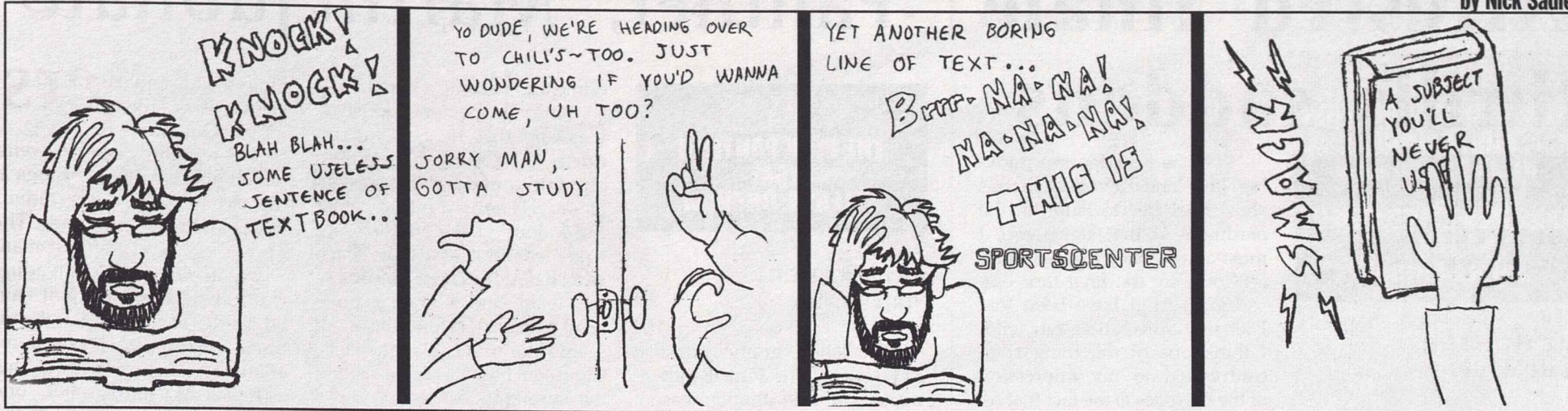
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Visit: www.latenightplayers.com to see clips and photos.

The routine will be centered around Clemson University.

Ha

by Nick Sadie



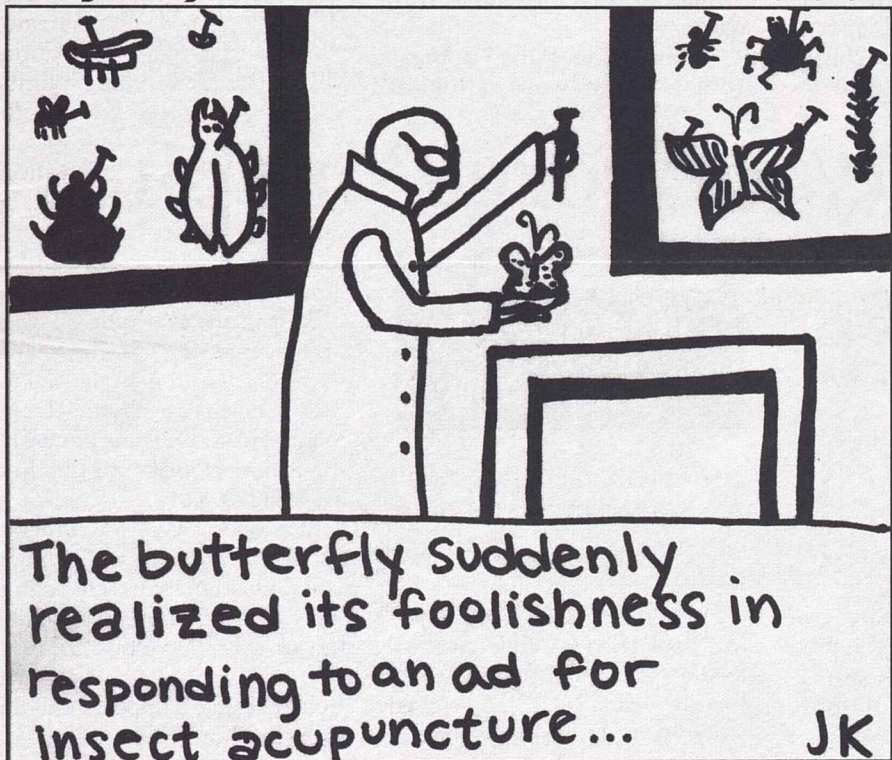
Anonymous Groundhog

by Maggie Musgrave

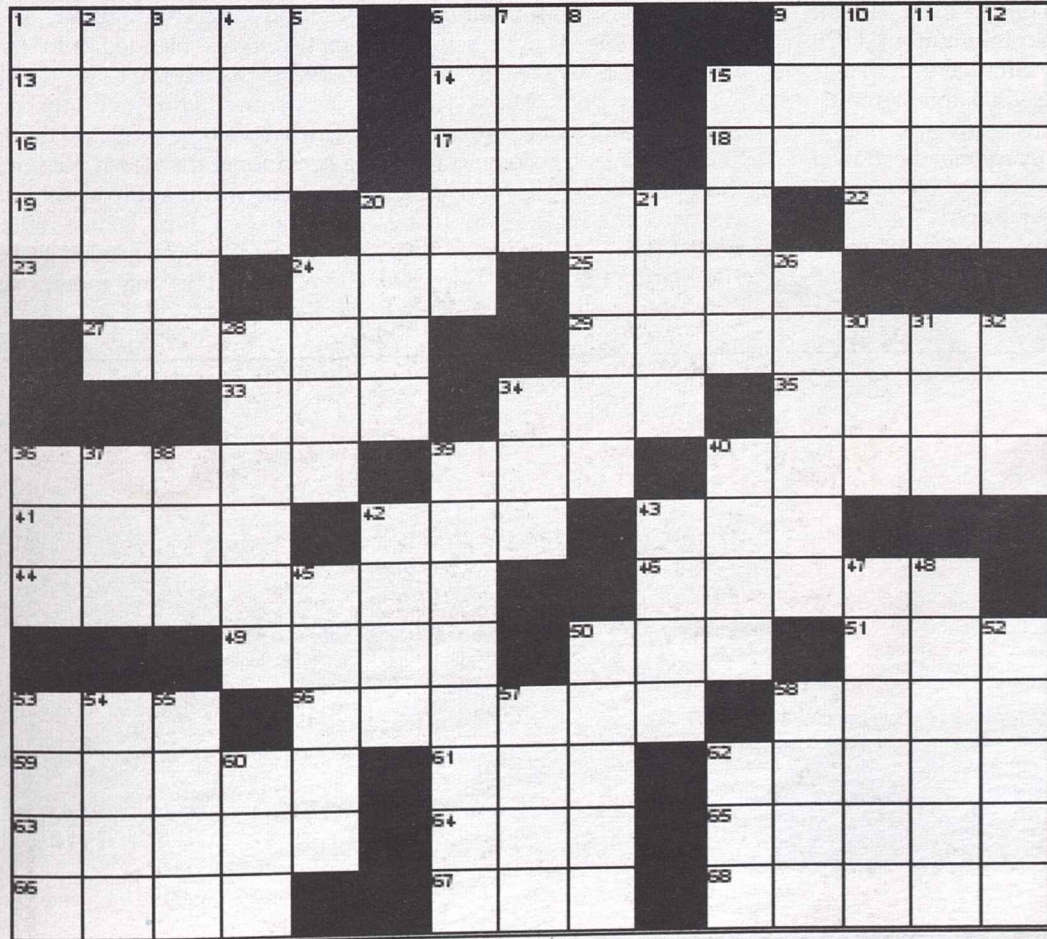


Vaguely Unrelated

by Jay Kyser



Crossword



Clues

ACROSS

- 1 Negative battery terminal
- 6 Aspire
- 9 Mined metals
- 13 Forest god
- 14 _ Lanka
- 15 Lived
- 16 Pointy end
- 17 Hellos
- 18 Carrot cousin
- 19 Lotion ingredient
- 20 Cooking oil brand
- 22 Unused
- 23 Affirmation
- 24 TV lawyer Matlock
- 25 Not ins
- 27 Letter part
- 29 Can be utilized
- 33 Alternative (abbr.)
- 34 Ornament
- 35 Something in orbit
- 36 Herb
- 39 Roman twelve
- 40 Famous saying
- 41 Positive
- 42 Stiffen
- 43 Shoshonean
- 44 Dress up dummy
- 46 Soft materials
- 49 De _ (anew)
- 50 Spiritedness
- 51 Bowler derby
- 53 Clip
- 56 Put more ammunition in
- 58 Clean
- 59 City
- 61 Wrath
- 62 Capital of Japan
- 63 Adjust car wheels
- 64 Oolong
- 65 Mixes
- 66 Natural remedy
- 67 Term of affection
- 68 Opposite of avant-garde

DOWN

- 1 Analyze quality
- 2 City in Italy
- 3 Worthless
- 4 Dick Van _ Show
- 5 Bard's before
- 6 Ashy
- 7 Colored part of eye
- 8 Capitol in Jefferson City
- 9 Hold
- 10 Stable gear
- 11 Otherwise
- 12 Thick soup
- 15 Author of "The Inferno"
- 20 Woof
- 21 Remove from office
- 24 Money
- 26 Old Testament prophet
- 28 Cereal fruit
- 30 Ghost's greeting
- 31 Large number
- 32 East northeast
- 34 Cause of sickness
- 36 Tempo
- 37 Wing
- 38 Star
- 39 Foreign rock fragment
- 40 Brand of cotton tipped stick
- 42 Devote
- 43 Old
- 45 Muslim sacred text
- 47 Tan shorts
- 48 Forest gods
- 50 Praise
- 52 Not these
- 53 Man who built the arc
- 54 Island
- 55 Two
- 57 Dunking cookies
- 58 Wine bottle
- 60 Former USSR's secret police
- 62 Teaspoon (abbr.)

"Arrested" finale thrills, saddens



LIZ HUNTER
Staff Writer

There is only one family I can think of that has a one-handed man, a magician, an analrapist/never-nude/struggling actor (that's pronounced an-AL-rah-pist, a cross between an analyst and therapist), an at-large father and two young cousins in love. Or are they cousins after all? I sure do love my Bluths dearly, flaws and all.

The show, which follows the Bluth family (which is: quite possibly the most delightfully dysfunctional family ever in existence), has achieved definite cult status but has failed to become a big moneymaker for the Fox network. So, accordingly, the network cancelled the off-the-wall series, and it is unclear whether or not it will get picked up by another network. Showtime and ABC have expressed interest in the series, but no announcement has been made yet.

Even as I pledge my undying love and devotion to this show (feel free to laugh at the nerdiness of that statement), I must admit that I was a tiny bit let down by the final four episodes. It could have been that I let my anticipation run wild. I think one of the things that contributed to my impression of the episodes is the fact that no one knows if this was the end of a season, or the real end. For that reason, writers left things open, and nothing was really resolved.

However, there was of course the characteristic absurd hilarity and smart humor present in the final episodes that makes the series what it is. In the next to last episode, titled "Exit Strategy", we follow the Bluth brothers to Iraq where they stumble upon all the Saddam Hussein look-alikes, who are living in one of the Bluth's model homes. Confused? You should be. This show makes very little sense, and that is exactly what makes it amazing. I couldn't make this stuff up if I tried.

If you haven't seen this show, believe me, fork over the \$20 for the season DVDs. Hopefully, it will get picked back up, and we'll get to partake in more absurdity. Save our Bluths!

"Panther," Martin jubilate



JAY PARKER
Staff Writer

The silly, goofy physical comedy of "The Pink Panther" works for one simple reason: Steve Martin. There is simply no other actor better suited to play the role of Inspector Clouseau than Steve Martin. Martin's uncanny ability to fall, trip and accidentally hurt himself makes this movie a delightful comedic mystery.

The story begins when Yves Gluant, the coach of the French soccer team, is murdered in front of a stadium full of fans after a big victory. Even more puzzling is how his famous Pink Panther diamond is stolen at the same time.

As the investigation begins, Chief Inspector Dreyfus (Kevin Kline) sees this as an opportunity for him to win the prestigious Medal of Honor. He decides to put the most hapless detective he can find on the case, and then, after the detective has humiliated himself, Inspector Dreyfus will assume control of the investigation, solve the

crime and become a hero.

Enter Inspector Clouseau. Unaware that he is being set up to fail, Clouseau begins to question a number of suspects. He travels around interrogating the jealous girlfriend (Beyonce Knowles), the assistant coach who has now taken control of the team and Gluant's business partner. While these all seem like plausible suspects, Clouseau has a way of asking the wrong questions. After a witness is murdered, it becomes clear that Clouseau is in way over his head.

While the plot is a little ludicrous, "The Pink Panther" packs in a bunch of laughs. The film has several running gags that never get old. Clouseau is constantly worried that someone is spying on him, and each time he enters a room, he attacks the curtains convinced that someone is hiding in them. He also has a way of accidentally injuring Dreyfus whenever the two meet.

Perhaps the funniest scene in movie comes when Clouseau begins working with an accent coach in an attempt to speak better English. After watching it, you will never hear the phrase "I would like to buy a hamburger" the same way again.

While "The Pink Panther" is in a lot of ways a typical

Hollywood remake of an old classic, it is still a very funny movie. One of the biggest kicks for me was the opening credits, which play a cartoon much like the old Pink Panther cartoons that I used to watch growing up.

All in all "The Pink Panther" is a fun ride, and while it may be a little cheesy and cliché at times, it rises above it with loads of laughs. Martin's performance as Inspector Clouseau is reason enough to go see the movie. Add in the unforgettable music, and you have a very entertaining movie.



PHOTO COURTESY MGM
"No, I am not Inspector Gadget!" Steve Martin stars in the new "The Pink Panther."

"Strangers" displays hilarity, becomes sweeter on DVD



CHRIS CANTRELL
Staff Writer

After 30 years of dealing smack, evading arrest and whoring herself out to survive, Jerri Blank is going back to high school. Comedian Amy Sedaris plays the 46-year-old, well-intentioned "heroine" in Comedy Central's "Strangers with Candy." The show follows the menopausal connoisseur of crack cocaine as she encounters everyday adolescent problems such as trying to fit in, making the team and dating.

Although it only lasted three seasons, "Strangers" has developed a cult following, and all three seasons have recently been released on DVD. The show could be described as baked with

satire, irony and sprinkled with moments that echo the "Naked Gun" series.

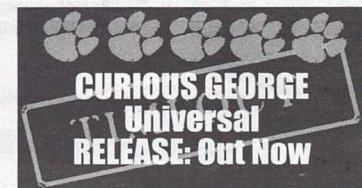
The show's format follows the model of the after-school special, which attempts to solve life's problems in less than 30 minutes. Over the course of each episode, Jerri attempts to learn valuable life lessons while trying to avoid the many pitfalls that led her to the streets. Jerri often seeks the advice of her seemingly amoral teachers whose intentions are to derail her ambitions. The conspicuously pseudo-heterosexual history teacher, Mr. Noblet, is played by Stephen Colbert. His dialogue is filled with his now famous "Colbertisms," which consist of unethical positions and blatant misinformation. Jerri also consults the flamboyant, self-absorbed art teacher Mr. Jellineck, played by Paul Dinello. With the combined efforts of the faculty at Flatpoint High and Jerri's immense ignorance, the life lessons she sets out to learn are turned around, and she ends up learning just the opposite.

Each episode is packed with a plethora of subtle humor which is often difficult to spot in one viewing. For instance, in just about every scene a picture of the school's administrator, Principal Blackman, can be found in the backdrop. At one point, a student is shown sitting in a desk wearing a t-shirt with the principal's silhouette printed on it. The series also consists of exaggerations and intentional contradictions which parody many taboo issues in society. The music used in climactic scenes also provides for some amusement. Every plot twist is accompanied by an overly dramatized score which exploits

Jerri's minuscule problems hysterically. Many hilarious one-liners can be found present in the show's dialogue. In one scene, Colbert's character screams at his students in a furious rage, "We are not starting this lecture on freedom until everyone is in their assigned seats."

Unfortunately, the DVDs are not jammed packed with extra features. One of the most disappointing things about them is that they do not feature any commentary. However, many comedians make cameos throughout the series such as Will Ferrell, Tim Meadows, Andy Richter and Cheri Oteri. Each season can be picked up for around \$20 each, and a "Strangers" movie is set to be released this summer. Although this show will not be enjoyed by everyone, those who like "Arrested Development," "The Colbert Report" and the "Naked Gun" series just might find this show to be the comedic fix they so desperately need.

"George" inspires



AMANDA GURGANUS
Assistant TimeOut Editor

"Curious George," a refreshing animated film, lights up the big screen Feb. 10. The bright yellow books by H.A. Rey have stolen the hearts of all ages for more than 60 years. Now, the beloved stories come to life in theaters.

"Curious George" begins with George in the jungles of Africa. As we see throughout the story, this inquisitive enthusiasm will at times get the best of him as he finds himself in and out of trouble. The Man in the Yellow Hat finds George during his journey into Africa where a peek-a-boo game causes the lonely George to become curious enough to follow The Man home. The two friends join in many adventures while trying to help The Man in the Yellow Hat save the museum where he works.

With an all-star cast and a G-rating, "Curious George" has a boost in the box office. Voices for the characters include: Will Ferrell (as The Man in the Yellow Hat), Dick Van Dyke, Drew Barrymore and Eugene Levy. The film is perfect for young children and families.

It is one of very few films in the past few years to be made with 2D animation. The entire film was hand-animated just like the classic Disney-esque tales you grew up on. This was a positive choice because it appears as if the books leapt onto the screen.

The icing on the cake for this film was the creative, beach-like, relaxed score by Jack Johnson. Whether it was all of the happy moments, or the few sad ones, Johnson's acoustic guitar and gentle vocals blended into the movie extremely well.

Anyone who grew up on "Curious George" will find this is a sensational trip down memory lane. The warm approach of this light-hearted film is just what "Curious George" needed to be immortalized in the movies as well as books.



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